

Begin plan for West Bank peace is shown to Mr Vance

A day of talks between Israeli ministers and Mr Cyrus Vance ended last night in a profusion of compliments. The American Secretary of State was apparently shown a formulation of the Israeli willingness to make concessions on the West Bank, but it will not be disclosed before the Cairo conference.

Israeli leader lavishes praise on US role

From Edward Mortimer
Jerusalem, Dec 11

Israel and the United States showered each other with compliments at a joint press conference given here tonight by Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, after a day of talks between Mr Vance and senior Israeli ministers.

Mr Begin repeatedly thanked the United States for its help in bringing about "these momentous developments in the Middle East", and revealed that on the occasion of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, he had sent to President Carter a message saying: "This is an historic moment. You have created it... He even asserted that he would like the American Secretary of State to visit the area more often.

Mr Vance, who arrived from Cairo last night, was equally anxious to emphasize the "appreciation, gratitude and admiration" of President Carter for the breakthrough in Egyptian-Israeli relations and the refusal any suggestion that the United States was in any way put out by the fact that President Sadat had taken the initiative into his own hands.

The United States was anxious to be "supportive", he kept saying.

Mr Vance goes on to Amman tomorrow, then Damascus, Beirut and Riyadh, while his Assistant Secretary, Mr Alfred Atherton, will attend the Cairo conference opening on Wednesday.

Both Mr Begin and Mr Vance emphasized their interest in a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, as opposed to a bilateral settlement between Israel and Egypt. But behind Mr Begin's almost euphoric self-confidence one could sense a feeling of liberation that Israel no longer needs the United States as an intermediary in dealing with the largest Arab state.

Indeed, some Israelis in the past few days, less diplomatic than their Prime Minister, have been hidden in the streets, panting to keep up with the game.

Mr Begin is resolutely refusing to be jostled into speaking publicly about concessions in advance of the Cairo negotiations.

He appealed today to the press and television to "give a chance" to the negotiating process.

"Everything is negotiable", he said, "except, of course, the destruction of Israel. Negotiations will take place in Cairo, Geneva, or Jerusalem, but with all due respect—not in front of the cameras of our mighty friends of the television."

Echoing an answer given by President Sadat in Cairo yesterday, Mr Begin said the purpose of the Cairo conference would be to discuss the basic principles of the treaties to be concluded eventually between Israel and all its neighbours.

It appears that this does not mean that they will be confined to Israel's preferred topic of "the nature of peace". They will also deal with borders, security arrangements, and, crucially, the Palestinian problem.

On this Mr Begin repeated what has become a set formula for him, expressing willingness to discuss "the problem of the Palestinian Arabs", and confidence that "we will find a solution". He refused, as usual, to be drawn on the question whether he stood by his election pledge not to withdraw from any part of the West Bank.

But it is understood that he and his colleagues have worked out a formulation of their willingness to make concessions on this issue, which the Israeli Cabinet will be asked to approve tomorrow.

The delegates to the Cairo conference will be authorized to use it with a view to helping President Sadat to persuade other Arab parties to join the negotiations.

This formulation was evidently shown to Mr Vance, but it seems unlikely that he can have been authorized to pass it on to the other Arab governments he will be visiting in the next two days because this would mean that they would get it in advance of the Egyptians.

Mr Vance will hardly be equipped therefore with concrete arguments to persuade those governments to join the negotiations. Only the results of the Cairo conference itself, or at least of its first stage, can hope to do that.

Photograph and Sadat interview, page 5

Motive for killing of reporter a mystery

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

Mr David Holden, the chief foreign correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, has been killed while on assignment in Egypt. His body was found in Nasr City, a suburb near Cairo airport, early on Wednesday, but was not identified until Saturday night. He had been shot in the back.

Although colleagues said yesterday they had no reason for supposing any political motivation for his murder, regarding Mr Holden as a journalist of scrupulous balance and fairness, the circumstances of his death are extremely unusual.

Crimes of violence against Europeans, as distinct from cases of robbery, are rare in Egypt, and very few Egyptians carry guns. Mr Holden had arrived by air from Jordan and never checked into his hotel. A correspondent of his experience would hardly have taken a taxi with an unregistered driver from the airport, or fallen into some kind of tourist trap.

The *Sunday Times* has sent two reporters to Cairo to try to find out what happened, and to arrange for his body to be brought home. His wife, Mrs Ruth Holden, who is also a journalist, was informed of his death on Saturday night, but there had been concern for his safety since Wednesday, when he failed to signal his arrival in Cairo.

No identification papers, luggage or money were found with the body, which was why it took more than three days before it was identified.

According to the official Middle East news agency, Mr Holden signed a currency declaration form on arrival at Cairo airport saying he was carrying \$200 (£110) in travellers' cheques, which he converted into Egyptian pounds.

General Nabawi Ismail, Minister of the Interior, has assigned a special murder squad to the case and ordered them to report to him personally, the agency said.

In many years reporting on foreign affairs, Mr Holden, who was 53, acquired an unrivalled knowledge of Middle East life and politics. Paying tribute to his exceptional qualities as a foreign correspondent, Mr Frank Giles, deputy editor of *The Sunday Times* and former foreign editor, said yesterday that his outstanding virtue was his sense of fair play and cool judgement.

He was the kind of writer who always went into all sides of a story, and his reports had the particular distinction of being both straightforward and highly readable.

Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times*, said yesterday: "It was easy to like David Holden and even easier to admire the breadth of his rational mind to the complex and emotional problems of the Middle East."

"He covered many troubled and disputed areas of the world like Chile, South Africa, India and Greece, with the same lucidity, candour and regard for the lives of the ordinary people affected. He never followed a fashionable or predictable line."

Edward Mortimer writes from Jerusalem: I was with David Holden for a good part of what turned out to be the last week of his life. We met by chance in Damascus on November 29, travelled together by taxi to Amman on December 1, and on from there to Jerusalem across the Allenby bridge on December 4.

We spent that Sunday and Monday interviewing a number of Arab mayors and other notables in the occupied West Bank.

On Tuesday we walked together to the Old City of Jerusalem before David left by taxi to return to Amman, from where he was to fly to Cairo.

As a companion in the Middle East he was both instructive and entertaining, having a marvellous repertoire of anecdotes about events in which he had been involved in all parts of the area during the past quarter century.

Obituary, page 17

Growing protests about Moon cult activities

By Diana Parr

A sect that, among other things, teaches children to hate their natural parents and family has established at least forty centres in Britain. As protests about its activities to MPs, the Home Office and Charity Commissioners increase, it continues to recruit more converts.

The Unification Church, commonly known as the Moon cult, teaches that its leader, a South Korean businessman, Sun Myung Moon, is the Messiah and that he and his second wife are the "true parents" of the world.

Children, mainly students between the ages of 18 and 23, are encouraged to transfer their loyalties from their natural families to the larger family of the Unification Church. "Jesus taught that we should hate our father and mother and family and love him first", it proclaims.

Many parents feel that their children have been "brainwashed". They say they can no longer relate to relatives or friends.

Mr Michael Marshall, public affairs director for the Unification Church, says: "Brainwashing is a highly emotive word, a word which we utterly reject and which reflects that in a materialistic society many people cannot or will not accept the reality of spiritual experience and the changes that are likely to occur when God enters a person's life in a powerful way. St Paul would probably be described as brainwashed if he had his Damascus experience today."

"Brainwashing charges have twice been tested in American court cases and both times rejected. Judge Belson in September, 1975, in the District of Columbia Superior Court ruled that there was no evidence to suggest that the Unification Church practised mind control or indeed any methods of proselytizing that were substantially different from those of other religious organizations."

In the past three years several thousand people have attended our courses for a weekend or longer and no more than 10 per cent have joined the church in any capacity. Where is the coercion then? Indeed, I have seen several full-time church members advised to live outside, either because they appeared unsuited to full church life, or to think out their commitment more deeply for themselves."

Mr Grace Adamson, of Plymouth, whose son, Tony, joined the movement when he was 17, continued on page 4, col 2



A victory salute from Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, and his wife after his crushing defeat of the Labour Opposition in the general election. Report, page 5.

Debate today on Polish ships order

By Peter Hill

Britain's £115m deal to build ships for Poland is to be discussed in the Commons today in a debate initiated by the Opposition.

Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have tried without success to elicit details of the agreement from ministers. Opposition concern arises from the amount of taxpayers' money about £20m, alleged to be involved in gaining the 24-vessel contract for Britain.

Ministers will reply that the contract has secured the jobs of 8,000 shipyard workers at a time when the industry throughout the world is faced with over-capacity.

The Prime Minister, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry and other ministers have refused to answer questions on the estimated cost of the deal to the taxpayer, the extent of penalty clauses for late delivery and other financial arrangements.

The ships will be built in Britain and owned by a joint company formed by Britain and Poland, which will charter them for 15 years to a Polish state shipping concern.

Leading article, page 15
Business News, page 19

'Jump on a skateboard' safety test for fathers

By a Staff Reporter

The would-be buyer of a skateboard should test the safety of the equipment by anchoring the wheels and asking a grown man to jump four times from the centre of the deck. The retailer may not like it, but such a procedure should expose the dangerous board.

That advice comes from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, after a report it commissioned on skateboard design from the Fulmer Research Institute. The society has asked the British Standards Institution to set a standard for skateboards quickly.

The report said that, though skateboard accidents caused by component failure are less frequent than those caused by loss of balance and collision, they are more dangerous because of their unpredictability. Elastomeric polyurethane wheels were the best for skateboards, the report added, but mass production of uniformly high quality wheels was a skilled business. The best urethanes would resist the picking up of oil and moisture and would retain high frictional properties.

The grip would not be maintained, however, if a layer of moisture separated the wheels from the surface. Skateboarding in the rain was like ice skating rather than surfing and was very dangerous.

The report said that wheels should have their bearings sealed. A stone could lodge in unsealed bearings, causing the equivalent of an emergency stop on a bicycle while travelling at full speed. Wheels made from steel or natural or synthetic rubber were not recommended.

Of the materials used for skateboard decks, the report said that solid wood free from flaws or well-designed and moulded polypropylene were almost indestructible by mechanical abuse.

Third baby dies at hospital

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

A future Conservative government will offer wide consultations beyond employment and industrial affairs while "setting them free" from the Administration of the day, Mr P. J. Prior, spokesman on employment, said yesterday. "No topic should be barred from discussion."

Putting forward a document on policy to the Conservative trade unionists' political committee in London, he dismissed the notion that a cabinet led by Mrs Thatcher would inevitably be embroiled in confrontation with the unions.

The socialist would say the Conservatives were the last people to talk about the role of the unions. Because Labour have nothing to offer they will repeat, parrot-like, all the old clichés about Tories being unable to work with the unions, about confrontation and so on.

"What claptrap it all is! The past few weeks have surely shown that any government can disagree with the unions. Mr Callaghan might call it 'friction' now and say that it was 'confrontation' when we were in office, but I do not know of many other people who can spot the difference."

Mr Prior agreed that any government could have trouble with particular unions, but he said there was good reason to believe that a future Tory government would be able to work together on some of the nation's main difficulties.

Conservative ministers will consult and discuss with the TUC and union leaders in the same way as they do with other important groups," he said.

This is the first political hint from the Tory party leadership to the unions that the party would be willing when in government to consult with the unions on issues in the social and economic sphere as well as on pay.

Mr Heath's effort to win the TUC's agreement on pay failed in 1971 and again the next year, leading eventually to the catastrophic miners' strike that brought down his government.

The Tory approach, Mr Prior said, was not to tell any group in society what its members must or must not do.

"This is why it is for the unions to ask what role they see for themselves in modern Britain."

A baby girl a few days old last night became the third baby to die from a virus infection that has affected the Mill Road Maternity Hospital in Cambridge. The two other babies to die were boys born prematurely.

The girl was one of nine babies in the special care unit who became infected after the boys' deaths. Of the nine, only five have shown symptoms.

A doctor, a nurse and a patient also have the virus according to Mr John Edwards of the East Anglian Regional Health Authority. They were progressing satisfactorily last night.

Admissions to the hospital have been stopped for at least seven days and doctors are hoping to contain the virus within the premature baby unit.

The virus is thought to have been brought into the hospital by a patient.

Arrangements have been made for all new admissions to go to other hospitals.

Tories offer wider role to the trade unions

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"This is why it is for the unions to ask what role they see for themselves in modern Britain."

Concorde's new Singapore service faces Indonesian threat of air space closure

By Arthur Read
Air Correspondent

The future of the new Concorde service between London and Singapore was placed in doubt last night after the Indonesian government threatened to close their air space to flights.

A Concorde made its first scheduled passenger flight to Singapore by way of Bahrain on Friday and returned to Britain on Saturday. It left again for Singapore yesterday.

Up to almost the last minute before the inaugural flight the service, operated jointly by British Airways and Singapore Airlines, was threatened by the refusal of Malaysia to allow the Concorde to fly through its air traffic control space.

The service was saved by the Indonesian who gave permission for the Concorde to avoid Malaysia by flying over their country. But yesterday, it became clear that the Indonesian government had threatened to close their air space to flights.

Concorde will make its third trip to Singapore on Wednesday and is due to go again on Friday—but this flight could be halted unless Britain can reach an accommodation with either Malaysia or Indonesia meanwhile.

The Malaysians are understood to have refused permission in the first place out of a dispute that Singapore, under a lease agreement with British Airways, was operating the supersonic airliner. Indonesia, not wishing to offend the Malaysians, gave limited permission only.

Mr Gordon Davidson, British Airways' Concorde director, said in Singapore last night that he was staying on there in an effort to find a way out of the dispute. He will join British Government negotiators who are also pursuing a settlement.

A Government spokesman said in London last night: "We hope that by the time the Indonesian permission runs out we shall have reached agreement with the Malaysians. Government is not forthcoming, we trust the Indonesians will not close the door on us."

Mr Steel expects Labour majority for Europe PR

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday that it would be madness for his party to break the pact with Labour and the Conservatives on the issue of proportional representation (PR) to the European Parliament.

He knows that if a majority of Labour MPs do not vote for the regional list PR system in the Commons tomorrow, he may have to face a special conference of the Liberal Party at which a strong demand will be made to end the pact.

Who interviewed yesterday in the independent television programme, *Weekend World*, Mr Steel seemed fairly confident that the requisite number of Labour MPs will vote for the PR system. But among backbenchers who oppose the direct elections Bill there is a strong belief that, even with the support of the so-called "payroll vote" consisting of ministers and parliamentary private secretaries, that target will not be reached.

Many Labour MPs, especially those on the left wing of the party, are following the guidance given by Mr Ronald Hayward, the general secretary of the party, two years ago and recently reaffirmed by him, that PR for the European elections would be the thin end of a wedge.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Firemen split over new peace plan

Only one member of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) favoured the Government's new peace proposals at mass meetings in London at the weekend, a union executive member said. He added that he expected an overwhelming rejection throughout Britain. The fire confederates so far in the dispute was given by Leicestershire members, who voted by 340 to 11 to accept the offer.

Accountants' clean bill for Lomho

The finance director and joint auditors of Lomho, the pan-African trading group, have been cleared of any evidence of professional propriety after a chartered accountants' study of a critical report by the Department of Trade. The study also found no evidence of lack of effectiveness over the question of expenses claim.

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'More advantages' in large schools

Small schools are likely to suffer from more disadvantages than large ones, the Schools Inspectorate says. It points to more effective teaching, a wider subject range and better sixth-form provision in larger schools. They are also considered to be more able to cater for minorities.

Page 3

Back from exile

Mr George Nyanzoro, external affairs secretary of the Rhodesian United African National Council, has returned to Rhodesia from exile to take part in the present talks aimed at achieving an internal settlement. He had been living in Zambia since 1964.

Page 4

Help for dollar likely

Western central bankers meeting in Basel today are expected to have high on their agenda the dollar's sharp decline and the effect this is having on the world's economy. Sources suggest the bankers will seek policies to stabilize the American currency.

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Space shot: Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko, left, and Mr Georgy Grechko on board the Soviet space station Soyuz 6. The cosmonauts were launched on Saturday in Soyuz 26, which docked with the space station yesterday.

Page 5

Attack on Front

In a campaign to expose the racist activities of the National Front, the Labour Party and the TUC are arranging for the distribution of a four-page leaflet portraying the Front as a neo-Nazi organization.

Page 2

Argentina 'war on terrorists'

President Videla of Argentina told British journalists that the country's "war" against terrorists was nearing its end as the terrorists' strength had been reduced to 15 per cent of their previous numbers.

Page 4

Chequers summit

Mr Callaghan and President Giscard d'Estaing are expected to find themselves in agreement on most issues, confirming the growing cordiality of Anglo-French relations, in their summit meeting at Chequers.

Page 4

Chess: Korchin wins another game

Chess: Korchin wins another game to take a 5-2 lead in his world championship semi-final match against Spassky.

Page 5

Alcoholism: The Christian churches'

new temperance leader aims to tell the public that alcoholism is the primary social disease of the age 17

Leader page 15

Letters: On Labour and the National Front from Mr Tim Miller and Professor J. A. Rex; on the police and pornography from Mr John Trevelyan. Leading articles: Mr Fraser vindicated; The Polish ships order; On the importance of the Lords debate on defence; Eric Heffer on unemployment; Charles Hargrove talks to Mr Jacques Chirac. Arts, page 7. Jeffery Daniels on eight remarkable paintings by Magasco and Fetti; Stanley Reynolds on *The Men who Made the Movies* (BBC); and Jon Strevens reviews *Oliver Cromwell*, by Roger Howell. Obituary, page 17. Mr David Holden: Professor J. N. Mills. Sport, pages 10-12. Tennis: Rex Bellamy sees Billie Jean King trounce Virginia Wade in Bremen Cup final; Golf: Dudley Doust on Ireland's entry from Manila; Racing. Business News, pages 13-24. Financial Editor: Gills: looking beyond the short-term; US bids: The momentum builds up. Business feature: Roger Vialov on next week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Hugh Stephenson: A solution to the local authority borrowing problem. Business management: Banks' adjustment to the needs of multinational companies. Business Diary in Europe: British initiative behind the new European consumer lawyers' group.

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HOME NEWS

London firemen reject peace package but Leicestershire vote in favour brings ministers first comfort in pay dispute

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The first crack in the united front of the striking firemen came in Leicestershire yesterday, but the Home Secretary's new peace formula seems destined for overwhelming rejection.

Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) are meeting in London on Wednesday to plan their next move in the official strike, which moves into its fifth week today, against a background of generally hardening attitudes on the picket lines.

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, said yesterday: "Firemen must realize that the Government cannot and will not budge on the 10 per cent pay guidelines. Firemen must see that their attempt to break the pay policy is against their own interests as well as that of everybody else."

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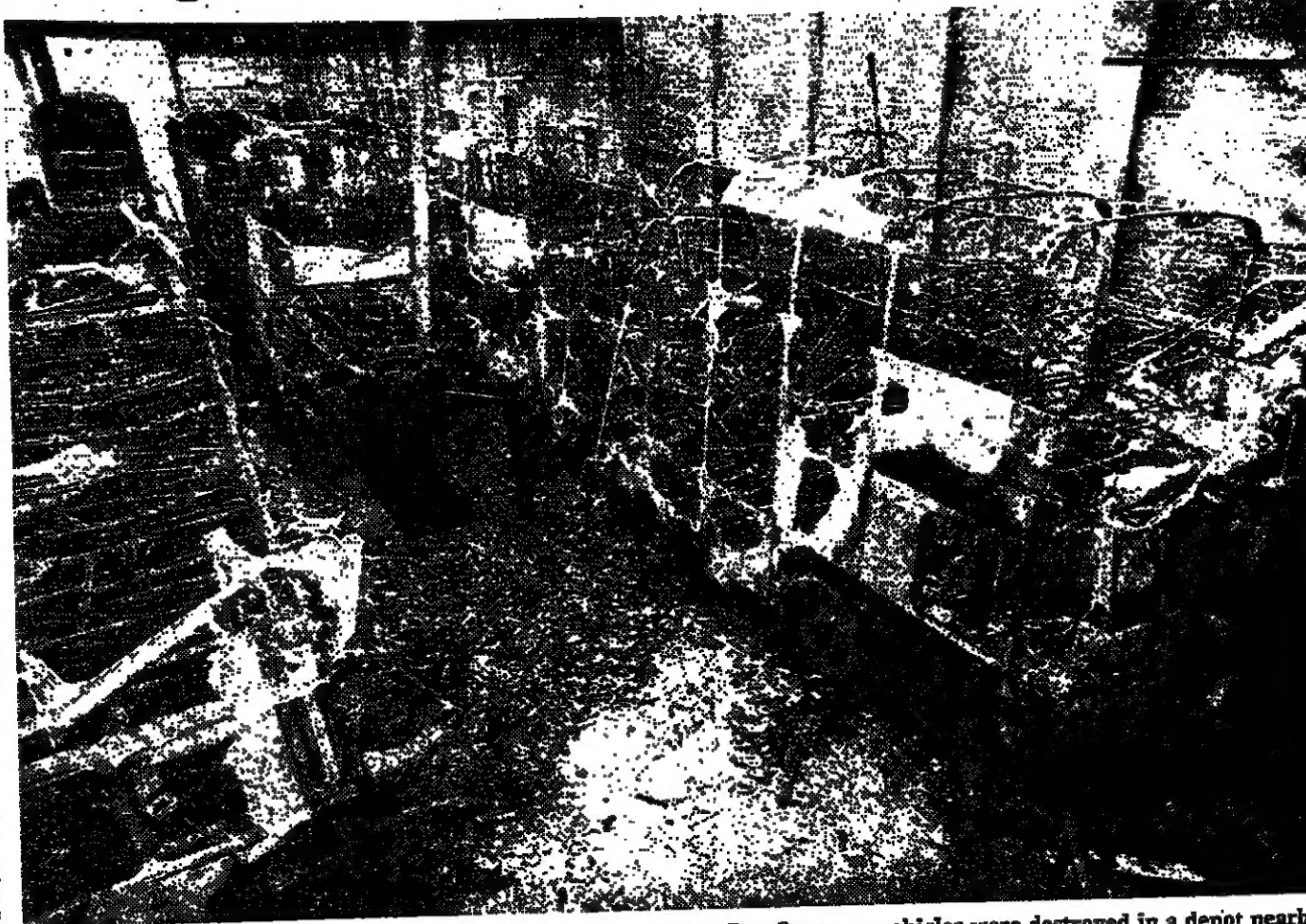
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Burnt-out buses at Nottingham Corporation's depot. Two Trent Bus Company vehicles were destroyed in a depot nearby.

guaranteed and underwritten by the Government in a way that was unique to the firemen. A 42-hour week to operate from next November had been agreed in principle.

"A victory in the fight against inflation means that the pay increases of next year really will be meaningful. Firemen, by the latest guaranteed offer, will have everything to gain," Mr Rees said.

Further regional meetings of the FBU will take place before the union's national executive reconvenes on Wednesday. Meanwhile, support is being canvassed from other unions and the fire brigade leaders are asking members of the TUC General Council at the meeting on December 21 to overturn the "inner cabinet's" refusal to mount a general offensive against the 10 per cent pay guideline.

The Home Secretary in his latest appeal for a return to work said in Leeds: "This is a crucial week for the fire service. An offer has been made to firemen which gives them what they have long talked of, a place at the top of the wages league."

The three-stage offer made to the men, giving them £100 a week by November, 1979, was

16 buses. The damage was estimated at £1m.

One theory was that the culprits may have been a grade 75, died yesterday after being rescued from a fire in his home at Queensberry, Clwyd. An electric blanket is thought to have caused the fire.

A bedridden man, aged 92, died in an upstairs room during a fire at a house at The Grove, Coulsdon, Surrey, last night.

The police were yesterday investigating the cause of a fire that led to the evacuation of 50 elderly patients from a three-story geriatric block at Ashford General Hospital, Greater Manchester.

A senior fire officer said: "There is reason to think that the fire was not an accident. A patient may not be the right word to use, because some of these old people are very confused."

Three fire-fighting soldiers were saved from injury by an Army bomb disposal expert in Belfast on Saturday night

when he warned them not to lift a munition cover over a hydrant.

The incident took place at Cromwell Road, near Queens University, after a bomb exploded outside the offices of a building contractor.

The soldiers were about to lift the munition cover when the bomb disposal officer shouted to them to stand clear. A robot bomb defuser which was used to raise the cover triggered a bomb underneath.

The attack was one of several over the weekend that destroyed the workshops of E. Conner, the main Ford distributor in the city, and a confectioners' shop, and damaged the Belfast Cooperative Society's new store in York Street, where seven people were injured.

Four soldiers were injured when a small bomb was thrown over a wall at the rear of Springfield Road police station, Belfast. One man received a snuffbox wound to the leg.

But Mr Francis Pym, former chief whip and now shadow Leader of the House of Commons, denied that the whip should be seen in this light. "I do not see anything wrong with it," he said. "No pressure is being brought on anyone to vote one way or the other. Tory MPs would make up their own minds and it would be a genuine free vote."

Mr Edward Heath, the former party leader, and Mr James Prior, the shadow Secretary of State for Employment, are among the Conservative leaders who will vote for PR.

But Mr Pym insisted yesterday that there was no personal class.

"As I have pointed out in relation to the Scotland Bill, there seems to be some merit in electing other assemblies on a different system," he said. But he felt the regional list system had profound weaknesses.

The Opposition whips, who are in close touch with backbenchers, will divide two to one against the PR method. The Conservative supporters of PR estimate that more than 70 will vote for that system.

Pay dilemma for freight corporation chairman

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, denied yesterday that he had threatened to dismiss Sir Daniel Pettit, chairman of the state-owned National Freight Corporation, if he breaches the phase three guidelines.

But he made it clear that he would take a serious view of Sir Daniel's decision to give the corporation's drivers the 15 per cent pay rise by private sector drivers in the Midlands last month.

Mr Rodgers and other members of the Cabinet clearly fear that if that happened the Government's income policy could suffer a double blow. Not only would a public sector organization be seen to be openly breaching phase three for the first time, but there would also be a danger of encouraging a similar deal in the British Rail settlement next spring. Many of the corporation's workers are members of the National Union of Railworkers.

The issue is a difficult one, however, because it raises questions over the independence of public sector chairmen in a mixed economy and how tough the Government can get over an incomes policy that has no statutory force.

Mr Rodgers denied a report in *The Observer* yesterday that he had "reminded Sir Daniel of his statutory obligations" because he was advised there is no statutory incomes policy. "I have issued no threat of any kind whatsoever," he said.

"However, I have made it quite plain to Sir Daniel that he and his board have an obligation to ensure that the corporation is within the guidelines, and that I would take a very serious view of any breach. Beyond that I cannot say."

Sir Harold's BBC denial is withdrawn

Sir Harold Wilson has withdrawn a statement he made last week denying that when he was Prime Minister he put pressure on the BBC to cancel a programme about the

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Labour-TUC attack on National Front

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

As part of a sustained campaign to expose the National Front's racist activities, the Labour Party and the TUC are arranging the mass distribution of a four-page leaflet portraying the Front as a neo-Nazi organization.

For distribution in shops, offices and factories in the new year, the leaflet comes after the Labour Party's controversial party political television broadcast last week.

Mr Joseph Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, who narrated the political broadcast, yesterday welcomed the publicity which the *News of the World* had given to the backgrounds of the Front leaders.

Certain references that had been struck out of the broadcast for legal reasons, Mr Ashton said, were minimal. "We got our message across."

Last Wednesday's broadcast was initiated by the party's press and publicity committee and the campaign committee, of which Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, is a member. The new leaflet has been approved by the campaign committee and is being printed.

It will present facts about the murders of millions of people by the Nazis during the war and urge people in Britain to unite against the new forces of racism now emerging. It brands the National Front as "a movement of hate."

Quoting from the declarations of Front leaders, the leaflet attempts to show the similarity between the rise of the German Nazi Party and the recent advance of the National Front in Britain. It asserts: "Yesterday—the Jews; today—the coloured people; tomorrow—trade unionists."

A photograph of a Front leader whose appearance is thought to resemble Hitler is shown in the leaflet. On the cover, in colour, a Union Jack is shown disintegrating into a swastika; in the centre pages there is a picture of National Front marchers carrying a banner to party and union members to fight the influence of the "neo-Nazis."

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, said yesterday that he will press in the Commons this week for an amendment to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, which prohibits the disclosure of certain criminal records, because he says that it was not intended to provide "whitewash" for people seeking public office.

Letters, page 15

Chief constable defends talk by Front man

From Our Correspondent
Durham

The chief constable of Durham, Mr Arthur Puckering, said yesterday that Mr Martin Webster, deputy chairman of the National Front, had been invited to lecture at a recent conference on public order because of those present wanted to hear from people representing all aspects of the subject.

Earlier Mr Gordon Bagier, Labour MP for Sunderland, South, had criticised the invitation as "shocking" on the grounds that Mr Webster's involvement in demonstrations had led to violence.

Mr Puckering said that the conference, some weeks ago, was an instructional course in public order from the police point of view. Politics did not come into it. The opposite political side to Mr Webster's was represented so that all viewpoints were expressed.

Principal's death

Professor Sir Hugh Robson, principal and vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University, died in the Northern General Hospital, Edinburgh, yesterday, aged 60.

Freighter refloated

The Greek freighter *Rhinea*, 4,739 tons, which ran aground on the Goodwin Sands on Saturday night, was refloated shortly before high tide yesterday morning.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown as solid lines. Symbols as on following page.

Today
Sun rises: 7.57 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon rises: 6.26 pm
Moon sets: 6.26 pm

First Quarter: December 17.
Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am.
High water: London Bridge, 2.25 am, 7.40 am, 1.40 pm, 7.40 pm.
Low water: London Bridge, 8.40 am, 2.47 pm, 8.40 pm, 2.47 am.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, E England, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny intervals, a few showers, with rain at times. Wind S, moderate to fresh; max temp 11°C (52°F).
SW England, S Wales, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, occasional showers, with rain at times. Wind S, moderate to fresh; max temp 11°C (52°F).

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WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY, MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Anti-apartheid protest over schools match

By A Staff Reporter

Supporters of the Anti-Apartheid Movement are threatening to picket a school rugby match on Saturday between Dulwich College, in south London, and a South African touring team from the all-white Diocesan College, Cape Town.

An official of the movement said yesterday that Mr David Emms, master of Dulwich College, has been asked to cancel the match.

He added: "Coming at a time when the news is full of the repatriation of Steve Biko's murder and when the schoolchildren of Soweto are still fighting for a decent education system, to play host to a privileged, all-white South African school, is a gross denial of the anti-apartheid struggle and a provocation to the multiracial community in south London."

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'PR' would mean coalition governments at Westminster

Continued from page 1

the wedge, and it would be difficult then to resist pressure for the same method to be adopted for Westminster elections.

"Proportional representation means coalition governments at Westminster on the lines of our European partners, and it would be goodbye to any dreams of aspirations for a democratic socialist Britain," Mr Hayward declared.

The national executive of the Labour Party meets on Wednesday to decide whether the party shall fight the European elections if the Bill, carried by the votes of Conservatives, Liberals, other parties and a minority of Labour MPs, becomes law.

It seems likely that the decision will be deferred until further progress has been made with the Bill. In the party at large, as annual conference decisions have shown, there is a majority opposed to direct elections.

Anti-EEC Labour MPs maintain that if the party does get committed to fighting the European elections, candidates must include a fair proportion of anti-marketisers, who would

have the backing of party funds just like the pro-Europeans.

In that context the decision of the Danish Social Democrats has special interest; those members of the party who wish to stand as anti-marketisers will have to leave the party and join a mass anti-market organisation that has been set up to contest the elections.

Taking an optimistic view, Mr Steel seemed yesterday to be putting his faith in Mr Callaghan's ability to persuade a majority of Labour MPs to vote for PR, and even if the Prime Minister failed, the special conference to call for an end to the pact.

If it did, however, he would be in an "impossible position". He was pressed by Mr Brian Walden, former Labour MP and presenter of the programme, to say whether he would resign if the party went against him.

"A lot would depend on what my parliamentary colleagues felt, but that could not be ruled out," Mr Steel said. "If the party rejected the strategy on which I based my appeal during the leadership election, then I would clearly have a vote against the leadership."

Mr Steel emphasized that although there were varying views among Liberal MPs about the pact, "we all agree that this is not the issue on which to break off the pact. . . . It would be madness to go to the country on the 'great issue' of proportional representation for European elections."

If the party did that, it would be adopting a policy they had criticised in other parties, putting something strongly above other issues which were of greater concern to the mass of the people.

Scorning the suggestion that he had been forced and outmanoeuvred by Mr Callaghan, Mr Steel said that he had very little out of the pact. Mr Steel argued that by saving the Government on March and supporting it since then, the Liberals have provided conditions of stability in which economic recovery could take place.

People would come to see that the Labour Government was not a free vote. That is being taken by some Conservatives as implying that they should turn up to vote with Mrs Thatcher and the majority in the shadow Cabinet against PR.

Conservative MPs have received a three-line whip asking them to attend the House on Wednesday to vote on the Bill. There is a free vote. That is being taken by some Conservatives as implying that they should turn up to vote with Mrs Thatcher and the majority in the shadow Cabinet against PR.

When he was asked whether, if the Conservatives won the next election but had a minority in the Commons, the Liberals would consider a pact with them, Mr Steel replied: "It is increasingly difficult to see how it is going to be possible to cooperate with a Thatcher government when they have this almost pathological blind spot about electoral reform."

"If we campaign at the next election for the balance of power and we get it, we shall be in a stronger position to demand, after three general elections in which there has been no clear result, a change in the method of election."

"At present the Tory leadership seems to be very strongly against it. . . . But I think there is going to be a change of opinion on the Conservatives' part."

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Christmas was cheaper under the Tories

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Christmas comes but once a year, and each time it gets more expensive, according to Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the Conservative spokeswoman on prices and consumer affairs.

Speaking yesterday at a briefing conference of her constituency association in Gloucester, Mrs Oppenheim claimed that this year it would cost the average family with two children £60.60 to celebrate Christmas.

The comparable cost in 1973, the last Christmas presided over by a Conservative government, she said, was only £34.89. She produced a Christmas shopping list of price comparisons to prove the point.

The list included all the traditional Christmas items, such as a 14-lb turkey, up from £7 to £10.50, a tree, up from £6 to £17.50, and tinsel, up from 60p to £1.08.

Mrs Oppenheim allowed three bottles of spirits, all sharply up, but only one pint of beer, up from 11p to 20p. Her model family was asked to send four Christmas parcels, at one of the steepest increases in cost, up from £1.08 to £3.44. But they did not apparently buy presents

for anyone except the children, whose "toys and games" were reckoned to be up from £10.95 to £18.09.

She would still be able, or want, to send their 24 Christmas cards by first-class mail might appear optimistic, with the increased cost of 84p to £2.16.

The only thing on Mrs Oppenheim's family Christmas shopping list that had not shot up in price was 11lb of brussel sprouts, still 12p as in 1973. Mrs Oppenheim evidently took little cheer in the prospect of the spirit of Christmas being personified by a bag of brussel sprouts.

Giving her constituents her best wishes for such a miserable Christmas, Mrs Oppenheim reminded them that things could be worse. They could be out of work, in which case this would be "one of the grimmest Christmases they had known."

She poured icy water on the suggestion made last week by Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Policy, that everyone should look forward to a merry Christmas this year. "There can have been few more transparently false statements than this euphoric promise," she said. "1977 will be the most expensive Christmas that people can remember."

Brothers die in crash

Mr John Flaherty, of Great Smyth, Cheetham, and his brother, Mr Christopher Flaherty, of Southdene, Kirby, Liverpool, died yesterday when their car was in collision with another car in Warrington.

HOME NEWS

Large schools offer more effective teaching and wider subject range, Schools Inspectorate says

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Small schools are likely to suffer from more disadvantages than large ones, the Schools Inspectorate suggests in a paper prepared for the Government's conference on comprehensive education in York at the end of this week.

At the Tory party conference in Blackpool last autumn, Mr St John-Stevas, opposition spokesman on education, said that "small is beautiful" in relation to comprehensive schools.

Anxiety about very large schools is frequently expressed by parents, the public and, less often, by teachers, the inspectorate says. The main concern was that sheer size might turn schools into impersonal institutions in which effective care for the individual was difficult to achieve. It was not true that such care could not be provided in a large school.

Large schools, however, needed much more structure. Much teacher time tended to be consumed in administrative and organizational duties, leaving less time available for teaching, and thereby undermining to some extent the economic arguments for large schools.

The inspectorate suggests that the difficulties often attributed to large schools could be more a product of the school's location than of its size. Many were in urban areas. Some lacked a balanced intake and contained a high proportion of children with personal and

learning difficulties of many kinds.

It was much less generally recognized that without generous resources schools could also be too small, especially when they had to provide for the full ability range, the inspectorate says.

"While it is true that in a small school many things requiring structure and time in a larger school can and do depend on less formal arrangements, it is unwise to assume that all will necessarily be well in a world of informality," it says.

It uses "small" to describe schools of fewer than 600 pupils, medium for schools of between 600 and 1,200, and "large" for bigger schools. Contrary to common belief, there are few large schools and very few that are very large, the inspectorate says.

In a small school it was often difficult to ensure adequate coverage of subjects. Departments would necessarily be small, with reduced opportunities for interchange of ideas between specialist staff, and the presence of one weak teacher could have more far-reaching effects on a higher proportion of pupils.

In addition, the Burnham salary structure meant that it was less easy for a small school to recruit and retain well qualified, experienced teachers.

Difficulties were encountered in trying to provide for a sixth form in a small comprehensive school. A high proportion of offered had to be severely re-

stricted, or something near the full range of expected opportunity was provided, but at great cost to the earlier years. Given a normal catchment area a school would need to have at least an eight-form entry to provide a sixth form with a reasonable programme from its own resources. That would mean a total enrolment of about 1,300 in a school with pupils aged 11 to 18.

In meeting the needs of minority small schools again had special difficulties. There was clear evidence that the proportion of children with special needs of various kinds was considerable, the inspectorate says, rarely less than one in 10 and in impoverished neighbourhoods often more than one in three.

Small schools were likely to have only very few children in each category of special need, the exceptionally able, for example, or the heavily disadvantaged. They had to choose, therefore, between hoping that their needs could be met without special arrangements or making such arrangements at the expense of the average pupils.

The inspectorate recognized, however, that there was a marked preference for smaller schools in many quarters. One way of reconciling those differences was for children to transfer at a later age.

A 13 to 18 school, for example, could have the same eight-form entry with a total of about 900 pupils. This, however, created other difficulties

Church to be garden memorial to Tradescants

By Penny Symon

John Tradescant, the seventeenth-century royal gardener, and his son, also named John, who were responsible for bringing many now popular plants, including Tradescantia virginiana, to Britain from abroad, are to be lastingly commemorated in the south London church and churchyard where they are buried.

The redundant, almost derelict church of St Mary the Virgin, just outside the gates of Lambeth Palace, is being planned as an international gardening advisory centre, with a museum recording the history of gardening, and its churchyard, planned with all the species introduced by the two men, is to become the Tradescant Memorial Garden.

Because of its connection with the Tradescants, the church, which has been described by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a "running sore," was visited earlier this year by Mr John Nicholson and his wife, Rosemary. They were horrified to see that it had been allowed to deteriorate and that the tomb of the Tradescants was covered with dirt.

"We realized that the jubilee was a chance to do something about the silver jubilee, would lead tourists over Lambeth Bridge, where the first thing to greet their eyes would be the sad sight of St Mary's," Mrs Nicholson said yesterday.

"We felt something should be done, and as we are a family of horticulturists we decided that we should turn the church into an international gardening advisory centre for everything to do with gardening, gardening, nature and conservation and establish a museum of the history of gardening."

The churchyard, she said, would become a memorial garden, with examples of the plants that the Tradescants introduced to Britain.



Mr and Mrs Nicholson (left) with two founder members of their Tradescant Trust in St Mary's churchyard, Lambeth, yesterday.

launch an appeal for £250,000, to enable the trust to take responsibility for the church's restoration and conservation, without support from the Church Commissioners.

The trust will receive some money this week from a performance in St Mary's of Rumer Godden's *Holly and Ivy*, specially adapted by the Dolphin Puppeteers and the Eton Puppet Group.

"I read the story by Miss Godden about a girl who started a garden in a bombed London church and told her what we were planning to do at St Mary's," Mrs Nicholson said. "She wrote and told me about the puppeteers, and as a result we are one of the four charities to benefit from the proceeds this week."

John Tradescant was born about 1570, became gardener to the Cecils at Hatfield House,

and later served Charles I and Henrietta Maria. He travelled many times to Europe, and in 1618 was the first English botanist to visit Russia. His son went on many plant-hunting expeditions to America and the West Indies, and together they established a fine garden in Lambeth, near the church.

Their "Closet of Rarities" the trees, shrubs and herbaceous and climbing plants collected during their travels, were later given by Elias Ashmole to form the foundation of Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum.

Among its species were the Virginian spiderwort, now known as *Tradescantia virginiana*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, Virginia creeper, trumpet honeysuckle, *Matthiola sinuata*, ancestor of 10-week stock, swamp cypress, tulip trees, acacias and planes.

Hairdressing pay said to be lowest in Britain

Britain's 135,000 hairdressers are the lowest paid workers in Britain, according to a report by the Low Pay Unit published today. Many of them, it says, had their pay limited because they missed out on phase one and two awards.

The report is issued on the day of a meeting to set new hairdressing minimum wage rates. It criticizes the industry's wages council and calls for an urgent inquiry.

It criticizes the council for failing to give the full 56 phase one increase and a phase two "topping up" award, and not setting a new minimum rate. It also criticizes the government for not calling on the wages council to award a phase two increase and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers for leaving the wages council five years ago.

The report says that at an average of £29.80 gross, hairdressers' earnings amount to less than two thirds of average earnings of all women, a fall of 13 per cent since 1970. More than one in five employers pay below the minimum wage.

A representative of the wages council said that members would today be considering all the representations made to it. "The Low Pay Unit have submitted their report and we have acknowledged it. It will be considered with other representations at the meeting."

A Short Back and Sides for the Poor (Low Pay Unit, 51 Poland Street, London W1, 51p plus 10p postage).

Galleries to close

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, is to reduce the number of galleries open at any one time from next month. The action arises from a security review after the theft of a Constable landscape, which was later recovered.

Coal reserves enough for 300 years

It is estimated that United Kingdom reserves of coal recoverable using established technology, are sufficient to last for more than 300 years at current extraction rates.

Energy, Nov 28
Oil reserves: On estimated reserves it is expected that United Kingdom production will last well into the next century, but in declining quantities, and that while demand for oil as a source of energy will also decline, that fall will not be sufficiently fast to avert the need for future oil imports.

Energy, Nov 28
Oil exports: United Kingdom exports of crude oil from April 1976 to September, 1977, were as follows (thousands of tonnes):

France, 1,430; Belgium-Lux, 1,391; Netherlands, 4,515; Germany, 2,544; Iran, 700; Norway, 104; Sweden, 1,465; Portugal, 57; Canada, 89; United States, 2,627; others, 1,770. Total, 14,492.

Energy, Dec 1

Grace and favour residences: There are 133 grace and favour apartments, most of which are at Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Kensington Palace. The Department of the Environment's costs for repairs, maintenance and modernisation for the last five years were:

1972-73: £2,500; 1973-74: £77,770; 1974-75: £28,703; 1975-76: £126,334; 1976-77: £57,196. Total: £302,503.

Environment, Nov 28

Answers in Parliament

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard.

Prisoners' reading ability: In a sampled population of prisoners 3 per cent were assessed as being unable to read; 8.1 per cent as having a reading age of less than eight years; and 15.4 per cent as having a reading age of less than 10 years. For young prisoners the figures were 3.5 per cent, 7.6 per cent and 20.6 per cent respectively. All those prisoners have access to remedial education classes.

Home Office, Nov 29
Unemployment: The areas in the United Kingdom with the highest rates of unemployment (per cent) at October 13 were as follows: Strathclyde, 28.4; Newry, 23.2; Leamington, 22.2; Dunbarton, 21.2; Rotherham, 20.3; St Ives, 19.8; Cookstown, 19.2; Helston, 19.2; Cambridge, 18.7; Lougherry, 18.1; Tenby, 17.8; Lanark, 17.4; Strathclyde, 17.3.

Employment, Nov 29
Unemployment increase: The percentage increase in unemployment in each region of the United Kingdom for the period April 1974 to November, 1977, based on seasonally adjusted figures excluding school-leavers, was as follows:

South-east, 206.1; East Anglia, 213.3; South-west, 198.6; West Midlands, 162.6; East Midlands, 151.1; Yorkshire and Humberside, 128.1; North, 126.9; Wales, 98.8; Wales, 129.9; Scotland, 111.1; Northern Ireland, 107.7.

Employment, Nov 29

Firemen: The full-time and part-time strengths respectively, including control room staff of fire brigades in England and Wales for the past four years were as follows:

1973, 26,292, 14,233; 1974, 31,117, 14,011; 1975, 32,550, 14,704; 1976, 33,592, 15,065.

Home Office, Dec 1

Entry refusals: A total of 11,334 Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals were refused leave to enter the United Kingdom in 1976. The reasons given were as follows:

Insufficient means for visit or not genuine visitor (6,134); lack of a UK visa by foreign national (1,343); transit passenger thought to be unable or not intending to proceed at once to another country and assured of entry there (1,062); intention to study not genuine or unsatisfactory arrangements for study (725); seeking employment without a work permit (393); others reasons (1,677).

Home Office, Dec 1

Kidney machines: At the end of November the Department of Health and Social Security had purchased 279 kidney machines during the year, all of which were manufactured in Great Britain.

Social Services, Nov 29

Moratorium on disconnection of power urged

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate moratorium on the disconnection of gas and electricity supplies and a 12-month freeze on fuel prices are urged today in a strongly worded open letter to Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy. It comes from the National Right to Fuel Campaign, which also demands an urgent review of the Government's attempts to alleviate fuel poverty among low-income groups.

The letter coincides with the start of the Government's electricity discount scheme, which is designed to help poor consumers to pay their bills. Those qualifying will get a payment of £5 each month and receive a 25 per cent rebate on bills of more than £20.

But Mr David Green, organizer of the campaign, said the value of the £25m originally earmarked for the scheme has been cut by 12 per cent by the rise in electricity prices this year. Yet more people than ever were at risk from cold homes.

He also criticized Mr Benn for failing to fulfil a report from his department calling for an end to the power of disconnection and the wider use of prepayment meters. The 142,892 people who had had their fuel cut off were awaiting action on that.

£20m debts uncollected under earnings law

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The courts have failed to collect more than £20 million worth of bad debts since attachment of earnings orders were introduced to stop debtors being sent to prison, a report submitted to the Lord Chancellor claims today.

Credit Data Ltd have studied the operation of attachment of earnings orders since 1971. They conclude that the system can only apply successfully to a small percentage of debtors. They claim that of a sample of 2,620 debtors investigated, they discovered that only 105 were suitable for attachment of earnings.

There are an average of 100,000 applications for attachment of earnings each year, but less than half the applications filed become orders, and less than one third of the orders made are ever fully paid.

The costs of applying for an attachment of earnings are prohibitive, the report argues, and it is estimated that £20m worth of debt has never been submitted to the courts, because of their known inability to collect it.

The report says it is surprising how seldom debtors are fined or imprisoned, in view

of the overall ineffectiveness of the system. It is also found that the courts are reluctant to take any measures against employers, despite the large number of orders which are allowed to lapse.

Mr Paul Brooks, chairman of Credit Data, said: "Some sort of discipline has got to be put back into commercial life and the courts have the powers to do so, if only they would use them."

The report makes recommendations for tightening up present procedures, including a suggestion that debtors' P45 tax forms should be endorsed so that debtors who change jobs cannot leave their new employers in ignorance of attachment orders outstanding against them.

Babysitter dies after shooting

Julie Fletcher, aged 13, of Queen Elizabeth Way, Kirk Hallam, Derbyshire, died of gunshot wounds early yesterday at a house in Gladstone Street, Ilkerton, where she was babysitting.

Police said no charges were being preferred at present, but the facts had been reported to the coroner.

TV disruption in Welsh language battle

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

"Commando units" of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Cymraeg last week deprived a large area of rural Wales of television reception by switching off four booster stations which enable the signals to circumnavigate the mountainous area.

Unlike other groups that engage in activities that may be illegal, the Welsh Language Society is almost proud to proclaim its responsibility. Mr Aled Eirug, the secretary, said: "The raids were a warning to the Government that we are capable of far more unless they agree to proceed quickly with a fourth television channel for Wales designated primarily for Welsh language programmes."

He was reluctant to say how much further the society would go in pursuit of its aims, but

conceded that the 1,500 members were not averse to resorting to direct action.

The society maintains that it was born out of a sense of frustration engendered by a realization in 1963 that only drastic action remained if Welsh was to survive as a living language. Since then society members have been imprisoned and fined for defying the law.

Mr Eirug said: "Television is the most insistent voice in the home, and without access to the mass media the Welsh language will die. A decision by the Home Office has become vitally important."

The Home Office see the clandestine raids on unprotected booster stations as an exercise in unnecessary propaganda, for there is a commitment to extend Welsh language broadcasting in the principality.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, said last month that plans for the development of Welsh language stations were well advanced, "subject to the money being available".

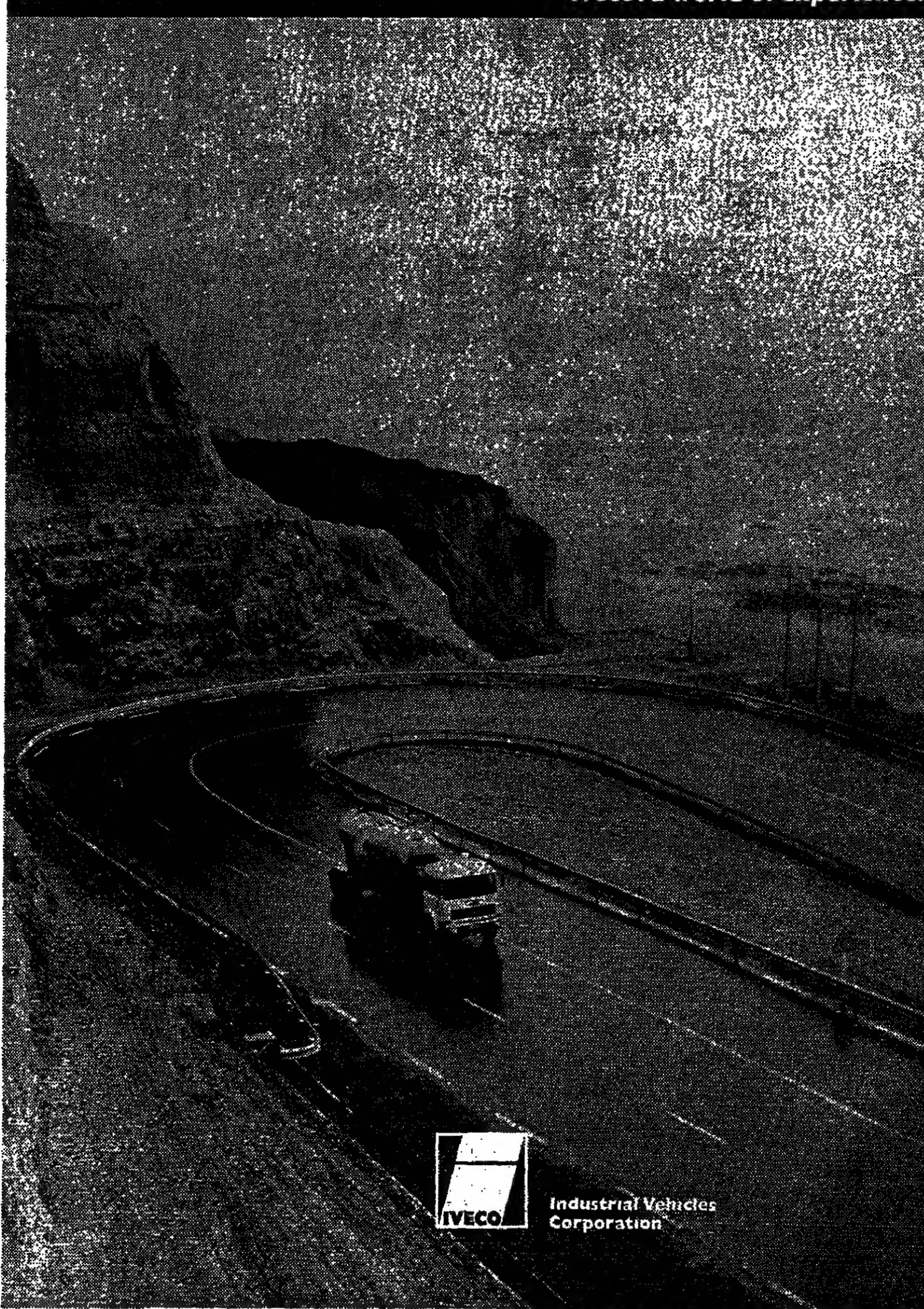
A White Paper on the subject has been forecast for the new year. It is expected to be influenced by the recommendations of the Crawford committee report published in 1974.

That stated: "The social need in Wales for the service is pressing, and we recommend that it should be introduced on the fourth channel in Wales as soon as possible without waiting for a decision on the use of the fourth channel in the rest of the United Kingdom."

"This would also give the service an opportunity to build up its audience before having to meet competition from fourth channel programmes broadcast from transmitters in England."

A truck travelling country roads. A van in the heart of the city. A bus carrying tourists, or workers, or schoolchildren. Vehicles named Fiat. OM. Lancia. Unic. Magirus-Deutz. This is the world of Iveco.

Iveco: a world of experience.



Industrial Vehicles Corporation

OVERSEAS

Mr Whitlam bows out after Fraser win in Australian election

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne, Dec 11

The Fraser Government was returned to office in yesterday's Australian election with its huge majority in the House of Representatives barely touched.

Mr. Gough Whitlam, the Opposition leader who was Prime Minister from 1972 to 1975, immediately announced that he would relinquish the Labour leadership.

Although by the end of the campaign a Fraser victory seemed certain, few expected such a resounding triumph. With five seats still to come, the Liberals have 66 seats, their coalition partner, the National Country Party, has 16 seats, and the Labour Party 35 in the House of Representatives, which now has 124 seats.

In the old House, which had 127 seats, the Government had 89 members and the Opposition 36, with three former Liberals sitting as independents.

The Government's overwhelming win is probably an even more devastating blow to the Labour Party than its record victory two years ago. Both the coalition and the Labour Party lost votes to the new centre party, the Australian Democrats, who attracted 9.3 per cent of the vote.

The Democrats' leader, Mr. Don Chipp, a former Liberal, was elected to the Senate and another Senator, Mr. John Gorton, 80, to his party. The Democrats will not, however, hold the balance of power in the Senate as was thought possible.

The Government has retained its majority in both Houses. The Labour Party polled 40 per cent of the vote, against 47.8 per cent in 1975. The Liberals had 38.3 per cent (44.8) and the National Country Party 2.7 per cent (1.3). The Australian Democrats with their share of the vote proved their claim to be a new force in politics.

Mr. Whitlam announced his intention to stand down when it became clear that his party had been soundly defeated.

Mr. William Hayden, Labour's economic spokesman whom Mr. Whitlam recently named as his successor, announced last night

that he would stand for the party leadership.

He is almost certain to win, since the other important Labour figure, Mr. Robert Hawke, the party president and trade union leader, is ineligible because he is not a member of Parliament. Nevertheless, urgent moves are being made to find Mr. Hawke a seat and if one can be found he could be a possibility for the leadership.

The election result could hardly be worse for the Labour Party. Two years ago Mr. Whitlam's Government was thrown out, mainly because the electorate held it responsible for Australia's economic downturn. Two years later, unemployment is up, national income is stagnant, and yet Mr. Fraser has been returned with a huge majority.

While the coalition lost votes to the Australian Democrats, so did Labour. In unfavourable circumstances the Government has almost maintained its status quo in the lower House. All this suggests that Mr. Whitlam, whatever his achievements in the past, had become an electoral liability. After 25 years in Parliament, his exit from the leadership bordered on tragic.

Mr. Fraser promised last night that the re-elected Government would seek to "reach out beyond the bounds of politics and unite all Australians in common purposes and objectives".

Prime Minister's only immediate problem, apart from the ever-increasing unemployment figures, is to make a decision about the future of Mr. Philip Lynch, the former Treasurer who was forced to resign at the start of the campaign after accusations of profiteering.

Mr. Fraser, who is 47, can now claim to be as dominant a figure within the Liberal Party as was Sir Robert Menzies. The pollsters have come out of the election well. All the polls predicted a Government win during the last two weeks, and all said the Australian win would be by a margin of up to 10 per cent of the vote.

Leading article, page 15

Three quit Turkey's ruling party

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Dec 11

The makings of a political crisis began in Turkey today with the resignation of three deputies from the ruling Justice Party, announced at the national press conference.

The resignations leave the ruling coalition with a one-man majority in the 450-member National Assembly.

A spokesman from the Republican People's Party, the social democratic opposition led by Mr. Bülent Ecevit, refused to comment apart from saying that the resignations appeared to be "a natural result of the contradictions and misunderstandings rampant in the Government".

Polling in the local elections was extremely low and not expected to be over 50 per cent.

At least four people were killed in election eve violence. Two people were killed in Osmancik, in northern Turkey, a 14-year-old boy was shot dead in the south-east town of Gaziantep and a woman bystander died in a gun fight between rivals in a village near the Russian border.

Janata Government to keep detention without trial

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi, Dec 11

India's Janata Government, which won the elections on a platform promising to end detention without trial, has tabled a Bill continuing the measure.

Official sources said the Government had had second thoughts because of a continuing spate of sabotage and growing labour unrest.

The Bill proposes to scrap the based Maintenance of Internal Security Act employed by Mrs. Gandhi during the state of emergency and replace it with a detention law similar to

that employed by the British Raj.

The aim will be to "minimise the chances of abuse" by the authorities.

While keeping the powers of preventive detention intact, the new Bill proposes three safeguards.

There will be a more prompt judicial review; the authorities will be obliged to state the reasons for the detention (to avoid the "indiscriminate arrests occurring during the emergency"); and the duration of detention will be limited to six months, after which the state must state the reasons for the detention was indefinite.

India-Nepal treaties expected soon

From Richard Wigg, Kathmandu, Dec 11

Mr. Desai, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that he expects India and Nepal to sign two separate treaties very soon, governing transit and bilateral trade matters. He was speaking at the end of a two-day official goodwill visit here.

Officials of both countries are to meet in the next few weeks to settle the final details of the treaties which are already in draft form.

It seems that Mr. Desai's talks with King Birendra and Nepalese ministers have given a political push to help overcome the deep-rooted suspicions the Nepalese feel at their economic dependence on their powerful neighbour.

For more than a decade Nepal has been seeking to separate an agreement on trade from a treaty which would recognize its right of access to the sea and so help expand its trade with third countries.

Several of the world's least developed countries are landlocked, but Nepal's problem

arises from its situation along the Himalayan "wall" adjoining the landlocked mass of central Asia.

In return for India's freedom of transit both sides have agreed that effective measures must be established to control smuggling along their virtually open border.

Mr. Desai emphasized that while India supported Nepal's efforts to diversify its economic links, a way must be found so that such trade did not harm the other country's interests.

The Indians have followed up King Birendra's proposal for a joint development of Nepal's vast hydroelectric potential.

It was agreed that a start should be made on a hydroelectric project in west Nepal which is estimated to cost about £200m over 15 years and India has affirmed its intention of buying surplus power.

Mr. Desai told reporters nothing had been said in his talks about Mr. B. P. Koirala, the former Nepalese Prime Minister



Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, about to embrace Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, before beginning their talks in Jerusalem.

Mr Sadat tells of his peace aims

From Charles Hargrove, Cairo, Dec 11

President Sadat said in Cairo yesterday that he would pursue his personal initiative for peace in the Middle East to the bitter end. "Let each assume his responsibilities before his own people, before the Arab nation, before the world," he said.

The Egyptian leader was being interviewed by French and foreign journalists, including myself, who were flown to Cairo by Europe Number One, the French radio station. The interview took place at his country residence in the Nile delta just after Mr. Sadat had met Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State.

The President said he wanted a global settlement, not a separate peace with Israel. But he made it quite clear that if the other Arab countries were not prepared to go along with him, he would negotiate a global settlement on his own.

He said that when he had gone to Jerusalem, Mr. Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had asked him to stay a day longer and conclude a peace agreement. "I said no, for that is not my aim. And today, with Mr. Vance, we agreed that the aim of the Cairo conference

(which is due to begin on Wednesday) and then of Geneva, is a global solution and permanent peace."

He had also agreed with Mr. Vance that "shortly after the Cairo conference, there would be a meeting of foreign ministers."

President Sadat indicated that his objective was the re-convening of the Geneva peace conference, but it was obvious to us that he was not prepared to let the momentum of his visit to Jerusalem get lost in procedural snags or be scuttled by the obstruction of Russia, the hardline Arab states or the Palestinians.

He said they could join the new trail to peace which he had blazed and come to Cairo at any time, but they could not blur it.

He had harsh words for all of them. He said the Russians had been "sitting on the fence" in the Middle East by going to Jerusalem, yet when he was in Moscow in 1977, they had suggested he meet Mrs. Golda Meir, the then Prime Minister of Israel, in Tashkent. They had tried to blackmail Egypt over arms deliveries. "Relations could be restored, if I agreed, Russia

should be our protector, but that is something I will never accept," Mr. Sadat declared.

He said the hardline Arab states and the Palestinians were "moved by hatred and ignorance". The Tripoli meeting last week in effect had cancelled the Arab strategy worked out at Rabat.

The president added: "Now if Israel agrees to evacuate the occupied territories, they [the hardline states] will refuse to endorse it. This puzzle state of affairs is the sole result of the meeting presided over by that demagogue child Gaddafi [Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader]."

David Cross writes from Washington: President Carter will consider virtually anything to secure a Middle East settlement, including a personal peace mission if this proved necessary. But he has no immediate plans to intervene personally in the current round of Middle East deliberations.

Mr. Carter revealed this to a group of visiting editors and television and radio news directors during a meeting last week. A transcript of his remarks was published here this weekend.

Prisoners of conscience



Hungary

Sandor Rudovics

By David Watts

Mr. Sandor Rudovics is in Szombathely prison, Hungary. His only crime is the illegal crossing of a frontier.

At the age of 13 he was sent to a reform school after trying to leave Hungary in 1963. After his release, he married Mrs. Purokai Jurgina in 1971. He worked as a trainee shoe craftsman and his wife worked to help keep their baby daughter.

Two years later the couple were divorced after living in a desperate financial situation. A few months later they were reunited.

Afraid to take their daughter with them, the couple crossed the border into Austria on the night of October 3, 1973. After reaching an Austrian refugee camp they were remarried and later had another child.

Missing his first child, Mr. Rudovics decided to risk returning to Hungary and to attempt to escape with her as before, but he was caught and jailed for two years.

On his release he took up his old job in the shoe factory in Szombathely, but was unhappy without his wife and son. So on August 17 last year, he tried to leave Hungary again, but was arrested at Kozsag.

and Social Democrat who is detained here and awaiting trial on treason charges. He said India would not interfere in Nepal's internal affairs.

But Lord Avebury, the British Liberal peer who is on a visit here, declared yesterday that "human rights are not a luxury which can be afforded only by the rich nations". He was speaking at a small gathering organized by word of mouth by the Nepal branch of Amnesty International.

There were many students at the meeting which was held in a field after the organizers said permission to hold it in a public hall had been refused.

Lord Avebury praised those men and women who were courageous enough to protest against violation of human beings' rights. He gave a warning that if a people doggedly accepted such a state of affairs governments would be helped to refuse to respond to international pressure from bodies like Amnesty International.

Cairo to leave seats of boycott states empty

Cairo, Dec 11.—Mr. Butros Ghali, Egypt's Foreign Minister, said today that all arrangements for the Middle East peace talks here have been completed, and the conference would open at 10.30 am on Wednesday at the Mans House Hotel.

Mr. Ghali said the seats of the nations and organizations which have said they would boycott the conference would be left empty. He hoped they would join the talks at a later stage.

Only Israel, the United States and the United Nations have accepted the Egyptian invitation for a meeting called to prepare for an overall settlement to be agreed at Geneva.

The Soviet Union, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization said they would not participate in the Cairo talks. Jordan has made its presence conditional on the participation of all the parties.

Mr. Ghali said the negotiations would be conducted across a round-table.

Foreign Ministry officials

Korchnoi takes 5-2 lead over Spassky

Belgrade, Dec 11.—Boris Spassky resigned his adjourned seventh chess game against Viktor Korchnoi after only seven further moves last night.

Korchnoi now leads 5-2 in the 20-game match to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov, the world champion.

Korchnoi was a pawn up at the adjournment after surprising his opponent with an unusual eleventh move and later shattering his position with a temporary rook sacrifice. These were the moves of the game:

White: Korchnoi, Black: Spassky, Queen's Gambit.

1. P-Q4, P-Q4
2. P-Q4, P-Q4
3. P-Q4, P-Q4
4. P-Q4, P-Q4
5. P-Q4, P-Q4
6. P-Q4, P-Q4
7. P-Q4, P-Q4
8. P-Q4, P-Q4
9. P-Q4, P-Q4
10. P-Q4, P-Q4
11. P-Q4, P-Q4
12. P-Q4, P-Q4
13. P-Q4, P-Q4
14. P-Q4, P-Q4
15. P-Q4, P-Q4
16. P-Q4, P-Q4
17. P-Q4, P-Q4
18. P-Q4, P-Q4
19. P-Q4, P-Q4
20. P-Q4, P-Q4

21. P-Q4, P-Q4
22. P-Q4, P-Q4
23. P-Q4, P-Q4
24. P-Q4, P-Q4
25. P-Q4, P-Q4
26. P-Q4, P-Q4
27. P-Q4, P-Q4
28. P-Q4, P-Q4
29. P-Q4, P-Q4
30. P-Q4, P-Q4

31. P-Q4, P-Q4
32. P-Q4, P-Q4
33. P-Q4, P-Q4
34. P-Q4, P-Q4
35. P-Q4, P-Q4
36. P-Q4, P-Q4
37. P-Q4, P-Q4
38. P-Q4, P-Q4
39. P-Q4, P-Q4
40. P-Q4, P-Q4

41. P-Q4, P-Q4
42. P-Q4, P-Q4
43. P-Q4, P-Q4
44. P-Q4, P-Q4
45. P-Q4, P-Q4
46. P-Q4, P-Q4
47. P-Q4, P-Q4
48. P-Q4, P-Q4
49. P-Q4, P-Q4
50. P-Q4, P-Q4

51. P-Q4, P-Q4
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59. P-Q4, P-Q4
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61. P-Q4, P-Q4
62. P-Q4, P-Q4
63. P-Q4, P-Q4
64. P-Q4, P-Q4
65. P-Q4, P-Q4
66. P-Q4, P-Q4
67. P-Q4, P-Q4
68. P-Q4, P-Q4
69. P-Q4, P-Q4
70. P-Q4, P-Q4

Safer home urged for Acropolis caryatids

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Dec 11

An international conference for the conservation of the Erechtheion, one of the three classical temples on the Acropolis of Athens, issued a solemn appeal to the Greek Government to take prompt action to free Athens from air pollution, one of the principal causes of decay in ancient monuments.

The conference which lasted three days declared that the removal of the caryatids from the Erechtheion, a properly conditioned museum was "a disposable and urgent in view of the extensive damage caused to them by the combined effect of pollutants and rain."

The statues would be replaced by copies in such a manner that the originals could be reinstated as soon as the cause of the damage could be eradicated or the effect inhibited.

This operation would involve the dismantling of the upper part of the portico as well as of the western wall of the Erechtheion which is severely damaged as a result of the oxidation of the iron clamps used in earlier restorations.

To achieve this with the least possible risk, an exact replica of the Erechtheion is already being built in an open space next to Hadrian's library below the Acropolis.

Dr. George Dantas, the director of the Acropolis said: "It will match stone for stone, clasp for clasp, crack for crack, in weight, shape and appearance, the original temple. It will help us in verifying our static calculations, as well as in training the team that will dismantle and reassemble the porch of the caryatids and the walls. Each movement will be rehearsed a thousand times to eliminate the risk of error."

The conference declared that none of its recommendations could be effective unless action were taken to eliminate pollution in the area of Athens.

It stated: "The participants make a solemn appeal to the Greek Government to initiate the study and the implementation of all the legislative and procedural means needed to terminate a situation that endangers as much the health of the city's inhabitants as the safeguarding of an essential cultural heritage."

The Athens conference was attended by some 70 experts from Greece and 50 foreign specialists from 11 countries. The participants were archaeologists, architects, chemical engineers, and conservation experts.

The final text adopted at the meeting commended the detailed research and study carried out by the Acropolis Action Group, appointed by the Greek Government, as a model for future restoration work.

It rejected the idea of protecting the caryatids inside a nitrogen-conditioned glass cage except as a very temporary measure.

The meeting agreed that the iron clamps and brackets used by earlier restorers, which have become oxidized, causing cracks in the marble, should be completely removed. However, the experts suggested that a further study of procedures was necessary.

The conclusions of the conference will be submitted to the archaeological council whose recommendations will eventually influence the final decisions to be taken by Mr. George Pylas, the Minister of Culture and Science.

Mr. Percy Sule, the Director of Unesco's division for the cultural heritage, told the conference that the international appeal launched for the salvation of the Acropolis a year ago had far exceeded its \$250,000 (£138,800).

Mr. Sule said the appeal had been successful in raising the prospect of building an orbital "space sausage" along these lines. One advantage would be that the first crew on board could rely on additional supplies from the second ferry and so extend their stay.

Part of the programme for Colonel Romanenko and Mr. Grechko will be to test whether the other docking port, which apparently did not work properly during the unsuccessful mission two months ago, can still be used.

Tass said twin docking systems would make it possible to service Salyut stations using two ferry crafts, but his report did not make clear whether this was the plan with Salyut 6.

General Shatalov told a television interviewer he was more nervous today than when he himself carried out a similar space link-up nearly nine years ago in Soyuz 4.

A basic aim of the Salyut venture has been research into the effects of prolonged weightlessness, a problem that must be solved if man is to embark on space flights to other planets.

—UPI.

Mr. Odinga is arrested at tribal meeting

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 11

Mr. Oginga Odinga, Vice-President of Kenya from 1964 to 1969, who was detained from 1969 to 1972 after his opposition party had been banned, was arrested at a meeting of a tribal welfare association here this weekend.

He was taken to the central police station with 17 others present at the meeting, which had been called to raise funds for some schools in his Luo tribal area of western Kenya.

Most of them were released several hours later but Mr. Odinga and another man remained in custody overnight.

It was the second time this month that Mr. Odinga had been prevented from addressing a meeting in Nairobi. Police ordered a dance, at which he was speaking, to close last weekend.

Malaysian air crash flight recorder found

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11.—Experts investigating the crash of a hijacked Malaysian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed last Sunday

The police said the recorder was found in undergrowth near the swampy where the Malaysian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed last Sunday.

The search is continuing for another device which records all voice transmissions inside the cockpit and with airport control towers.—Reuter.

Ferry links up with Soviet space station

Moscow, Dec 11.—Two Soviet cosmonauts hugged each other in jubilation today after they succeeded in the second attempt to link a Soyuz ferry craft with the orbiting Salyut 6 space station. The first attempt last October failed.

Today's success coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the first Soviet Sputnik satellite against the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko, the mission commander, and Mr. Georgy Grechko, the engineer, homed in on Salyut 6 from their Soyuz 25 ferry, which was launched yesterday. "It was almost exemplary for such an important operation," Lieutenant-General Vladimir Shatalov, the cosmonauts' training chief, said.

Soviet television showed pictures from a camera on the Salyut of Mr. Grechko and Colonel Romanenko hugging each other in the orbiting laboratory. Mr. Grechko was first on board.

"Come on in here and show yourself to the camera," he called to Colonel Romanenko. To carry out the operation the two cosmonauts took advantage of an innovation in the laboratory's design: an extra docking port.

Earlier Salyut models have had only one docking facility. A second appeared to mean that Salyut 6 was intended as the centrepiece of a future three-craft ensemble with Soyuz ferries docked at each end.

Soviet scientists have already raised the prospect of building an orbital "space sausage" along these lines. One advantage would be that the first crew on board could rely on additional supplies from the second ferry and so extend their stay.

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—UPI.

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THE ARTS

Three Sisters
Barnet Theatre
Company

Irving Wardle

A linked group of communitarian villages on the Hertfordshire border, Barnet is the North London equivalent of Greenham Common, and just as natural a candidate for a new circle playhouse. As a first step in that direction we have the Barnet Theatre Company, a nucleus of professional actors with local industrial backing, who have just tested the potential public with a series of packed-out performances of *Three Sisters* at Barnet College.

John Sichel's production was a part professional, part amateur affair with all the switchbacks of quality you would expect; but it was an interesting piece of work by any standard. Built round the group's most forceful actor, Richard Mayes, the production shifts the class relationship between Vershinin and the Prozor family. Vershinin becomes a ruthless old circle player, his guard from the start against the other officers, and inflexibly hostile towards the Baron. "I," he says pointedly, "did not go to the military academy," driving the sub-home with a turned back. The girls, on the other hand, are exposed as languidly affected creatures of their class, hopelessly clinging to this tough outsider when they run into trouble. In short, the same pattern as that of Lopakhin and the Remevsky household in the Cherry Orchard. Innovation apart, traditional Chekhov was well served in performances like James Maguire's gently officious Kuligin and Robert Richards' Byronic Solovov.

We shall be hearing more of the company in 1978, with productions of Feydeau and a locally discovered Restoration comedy.

The Men who Made the Movies
BBC 2

Stanley Reynolds

Richard Schickel, the author and critic, who writes, directs, and produces *The Men who Made the Movies* series for National Education Television, which is America's answer to BBC 2, should for his own protection be better known in Britain. At least he should not be known merely as the man who has been writing, directing, and producing the series for a few years now has been using the series to kick-off strings of old films. It makes Mr Schickel appear like yet another one of those scarecrows, heavily dramatic American voices, full of wind and pretension, and Mr Schickel is a good critic and writer.

With Vincente Minnelli on Saturday night Mr Schickel opened with some bizarre notion that the director of all those fantastical musicals at the time was a realiser who knew the dangers of fantasy. Indeed, Vincente Minnelli, a lover of French culture, did direct *Madame Butterfly* as well; but once Mr Schickel got his teeth into the rut of the argument, he seemed unable to climb out. Because of this the good fun, for example, of Fred Astaire as Jack Buchanan singing "That's Entertainment" (where a ghost and a prince meet) and everything ends in mince meat or even Judy Garland, at her best, singing the Trolley Song from *Mosses in St Louis* had to have the leaden weights of Mr Schickel's essay on the social significance of Vincente Minnelli attached to them. Lead weights do not become the nimble tread of the feet of Fred Astaire.

After the documentary viewers saw some Cecil De Mille, an appalling motion picture made, somehow glorious not by Mr Minnelli's dancing camera but by the straight no-nonsense acting of Frank Sinatra, Shirley Maclaine, and especially Dean

Stupendous Triumphs

Jeffery Daniels

An exhibition consisting of only eight paintings sounds like a very modest affair but when it is arranged by David Carrivax, larger expectations are naturally aroused. Mr Carrivax is one of the few art experts whose name means something outside the confines of the world of museum curators, collectors and dealers: he is the man who found the beautiful *Triumph of Ariadne* (now in the National Gallery) in the Egyptian Embassy in London, exactly where all the books said it ought to be, and more recently he has announced that a picture he acquired at the Antiquaire sale as by Carle van Loo, is in fact an early, documented work by his pupil Jean-Honoré Fragonard.

He has just opened the first floor of his premises in Duke Street, St James's, as a public gallery, and his first exhibition, which continues until December 20, consists of three works by Domenico Fontana, and five by Alessandro Magnasco, both highly individual artists opposed to the smooth, classical tradition of Bologna, and the more conservative, Baroque taste of the Roman school. Fontana (c.1588) in Rome, studying under Ludovico Cigoli, a Florentine who worked in a sound if unexciting High Renaissance manner, was an important influence on the young painter came, however, from elsewhere, namely the *Caravaggeschi*. (The followers of Michelangelo's *St Mark* known as *Il Caravaggio*) and from the German landscape painter Adam Elsheimer, who spent the last 10 years of his life in Rome, dying there in the same year as Caravaggio, 1610. Three years later Fontana moved to Mantua, whose ruler, Duke Ferdinando Gonzaga, owned one of the finest collections in Europe, and was acquired by the Duke of Buckingham on behalf of Charles I. Its greatest treasures were the masterpieces by Venetians, especially Titian, and by Rubens, who had been the previous Duke's largely absentee court-painter.

It must have been Titian's famous series of Roman Emperors that inspired the two monumental horse-length figures of *Pope* in this exhibition: the technique, loaded and sensual, and although their precise identification is unsure, they are compelling images, and seem almost too strong for the relatively small room in which they hang. The third work, on the other hand, is perfectly in scale, an exquisite little panel depicting *The Fall of the Treason*—hidden in a field, painted towards the end of Fontana's brief career, in Venice, before he moved about 1618, being about 1700 years in it. It recalls the small-scale figures of Elsheimer, although the landscape background is very Venetian, and the treatment of the scene is reminiscent of Giorgione.

The other painter, Alessandro Magnasco, is more idiosyncratic, specialising in scenes of inquisitorial torture, and the frenzied, and bacchanalian abandon, executed in a splashy, calligraphic style that in his later pictures is a sort of visual shorthand. The most imposing work is a magnificent *Triumph of Bacchus*, with numerous figures, grotesque, and anatomically wrong.

New Mozart Orchestra
St John's

Barry Millington

Britain's new British Commemorative Concert at St John's was devoted fittingly to works of Britten himself and to works of Britten himself, who also gave his name to the ensemble concerned. If Mozart's symphony No 5 in B flat K 22, seemed to rely mainly on formula and convention, the composer, only nine at the time, may perhaps be excused. The New Mozart Orchestra, consisting of some familiar faces, Mr Burrows was impressive both in such passages as the Wordsworth *Prelude* extract, with its building up of a climax of horror, and in his floating of the long melodic lines in the harp-accompanied *Coldwater* setting.

Clive Fairbairn's thrusting yet thoughtful direction of Mozart's symphony No 40 in G was most enjoyable. His handling of the "one-in-a-kind" *Minuet* would have sent sprawling any courtier foolish enough to attempt dancing to it, but it was convincing as well in its representation of the movement's sense, nature (highlighting the cross-accent, for example) as in the lighter Tito.



Magnasco and Spera: The Triumph of Ariadne (detail)

identified as a *Triumph of Ariadne* (the female in the chariot carries a wand, as the catalogue points out, there is a total absence of the inalienable attribute of Venus). In both, the architecture and landscape are by Clemente Spera, with whom Magnasco collaborated on many occasions, especially during his first Milanese period, before 1703. He had arrived in Milan from his birthplace, Genoa, in 1677 to study with Filippo Abbiati, but in Magnasco's case the strongest influence came from elsewhere: the rich legacy of paintings by Cardinal Federico Borromeo's friend Il Morazzone.

Before 1698 Magnasco was working with Spera on ambitious commissions for the new *San Carlo* theatre, a house whose household accounts record payments to both for two "quadri grandi" in 1699 and whose inventory, drawn up about 1700, lists the *Triumph of Bacchus* with numerous figures "grotesque, anatomically wrong" which

sound very similar to the work exhibited. Three others could be those in the *Harmonie*, *Leitragrad*, one of which, a *Bacchanal*, contains several figures so close to ones in the two "Triumphs" in this exhibition that they must all three date from the same period in the painter's career. The *Leitragrad* picture (not mentioned in the Carrivax catalogue) is dated by the museum about 1710, which is therefore at least 10 years too late, while the dating proposed for these, of 1720-30, is a fortiori clearly impossible. Whatever the reservations, there can be no doubt about the pictures themselves, which are quite simply stupendous.

The other three are correctly described as late works, the *St Anthony* preaching to the fishes exhibiting, what is aptly described as "dramatic turbulence of theme as well as brushwork", whereas *The Tame Magpie* is surprisingly bright, in colouring and wrought to an unusually high degree of "finish". The most interesting of all is another

The Taming of the Shrew
Covent Garden

John Percival

There were moments at the beginning of *The Taming of the Shrew* on Friday when it seemed that Lesley Collier, new to the title part at Covent Garden, might show too much relish for her task. But she soon got her smile under control, serving it winningly for the yielding moments, and conveying a marvellous fructification elsewhere. She headed a cast that was largely new and almost wholly admirable.

Collier's is a highly intelligent reading of the role, apparent not only in the clever improvisation with which she dismembered herself of a whole cooked chicken, accidentally left lying in what should have been her starving footsteps, but also in the way her eyes let you know what the character is thinking. Jennifer makes a credible sister to her, providing a better foil by adding a touch of

vinegar to turn Bianca's usual sugarciness into a sweet and sour naughtiness.

Stephen Jeffries brings a fine bull-boy swagger to Petruchio but makes the part more rewarding by letting it be seen, through the wariness with which he first tackles Kate, that the bluster is at least partly put on. That hint of underlying seriousness does not prevent touches of does not prevent humour, especially in the way his curled-up toes suggest delicious dreams after he has been stripped and left lying drunk by the two whores.

That couple were made funnier and sexier than before by new performers Sandra Conley and Sally Ashby. Bianca's suitors were a notably eccentric, woebegone trio with Derek Deane transferring to *Seeley* coming in as Hortensio, Lucendo, Wayne Sleep replacing him as Grêmio and Stephen, all of them providing much droll detail. There were brilliant moments of acrobatic dancing, too, from the ensemble in the carnival scene, masked and therefore unidentifiable.

Good Lord Protector

Oliver Cromwell
By Roger Howell

(Hutchinson, £4.50)
John Hampden was once asked for his opinion about a fellow member of the Long Parliament. He replied: "That slovenly fellow which you see before us, who hath no ornament in his speech; I say that sloven if we should come to have a breach with the king (which God forbid), in such case will be one of the greatest men in England." He was referring to his cousin, Oliver Cromwell.

To Englishmen Cromwell is their only republican head of state, the only ruler drawn from the heart of provincial England. And he reflects back to them their own inner conflicts and contradictions, qualities which trouble and bewilder the foreigner. He could display that marvellous combination of humility with arrogant self-certainty, the reluctance to take power mingled with the delight in its exercise; a deep religious faith nicely blended with a self-regarding arrogance.

Roger Howell is an American scholar of the younger generation who, in the compass of some 250 pages, provides numerous insights into Cromwell's personality, objectives and achievements. Diplomacy gets rather brief consideration, but his actions in Ireland are justly assessed in their immediate and long-term effects. In matters of faith, government and politics the author manages to say fresh and illuminating things, well supported by apt quotations and presented in a most readable form; and he is particularly good in his account of Cromwell's genius as a soldier.

We never lost sight of Cromwell, the man, amidst the absorbing story of the dramatic episodes of his career. His family was certainly in the mind, as was the country from which he came and to which, so he said, he longed to return. But driven forward by the belief that he had a mission from God, he may well have been the prisoner of his illusion of spiritual grandeur. An opponent described one of his speeches as "an audacious, ambitious, and hypocritical imitation of Moses"; but he was much more complex than any imitator.

Cromwell was caught up in a paradox. He came to power not by election but by force yet he tried to establish government by consent through the exercise of force. Although a committed puritan he was well ahead of his contemporaries in his advance towards toleration; and in this and other ways he alienated many of his supporters and reduced them by the slender parliamentary resources at his disposal. As Napoleon once said of himself, he was reared in the camp not on the throne; and there was no assured historic or constitutional base to his authority.

A success in war, a failure in peace, he deserved also to be remembered for his speeches and letters. It is true that he could present a turgid, introspective account of his close relationship with the Almighty. But, at his best, he was master of a direct, lucid and moving prose which carried down to us echoes of the cadences of the Elizabethan world into which he was born.

Joel Hurstfield

Wren Orchestra/Snell
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

The Wren Orchestra is a curious institution. Supported by a local radio station (Capital Radio) and drawing players from a pool of young musicians, it is an ensemble without any special conviction, whether of style or of repertoire. Its conductor, the young trumpeter Howard Snell, is a good musician, but his talent in London, it is an ensemble without any special conviction, whether of style or of repertoire. Its conductor, the young trumpeter Howard Snell, is a good musician, but his talent in London, it is an ensemble without any special conviction, whether of style or of repertoire.

As for the orchestra's programmes, they follow the paths well trodden by such groups as the English Chamber Orchestra and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, except for such events as a forthcoming concert of "music for the films" which is promised will include the complete performance of Grieg's piano concerto.

Jones Cantata
Swansea

Kenneth Loveland

The poetry of the Brecon mystic, George Herbert, evoked from Daniel Jones in 1951 a well wrought cantata, *The Country Beyond the Stars*, which still represents him at his most fluent and communicative. For his BBC Wales silver jubilee commission he has again turned to a mystic, this time William Blake.

The result, *Hear the Voice of the Ancient Bard*, a choral suite heard at Swansea on Friday, goes some way towards repeating the success of its predecessor, but fails to achieve its purpose at the centre, the very point where relationship between words and music is most necessary.

The composer seeks to reflect the three plateaus of Blake's world: he sees it, involving the passage from the superficially beautiful to disillusionment, thence to the rejection of false values and the realization of higher attainment.

The first and last stages are effectively expressed. *I Love the Jocund Dance* gives Dr Jones a chance to bring off one of those brilliant scherzos that regularly enliven his writing, and *Hear the Voice of the Ancient Bard* close climbs up to an apophysis that creates exactly the musical impression of Blake's philosophy.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from Saturday's later editions.

sophy for which the composer is searching.

But the central and longest section does not suggest the disillusionment essential to Dr Jones's pattern, because the music suddenly loses character and is so more than distantly in touch with poems such as *O rose thou art sick*, and *The Cloud*, and *The Poet*.

Throughout the writing does not suggest that stylistically Dr Jones has moved very far since *The Country Beyond the Stars*, although we know several orchestral works in the years between that deny this. Regularly the music takes on the kind of visionary idealism that composers of two generations ago called up for Walt Whitman. However, the practicality of the music, the directness of approach should earn for the suite many friends among choral societies.

The work was conscientiously performed by the BBC Welsh symphony Orchestra and Choral Society, conducted by Gunter Herbig, whose short visit to Wales is showing the excellence of which this orchestra is capable under the best conditions.

New Bond play at the Warehouse

Edward Bond's new play *The Bundle* will be given its opening performances at the RSC's Warehouse from tomorrow.

Print Fair

Christie's Contemporary Art and the V&A Associates present a collection of signed limited edition prints on sale to raise funds for future museum activities.

Visit the Museum Shop for Christmas gifts galore. Jewellery, cards, calendars, coins, toys and dolls. Many priceless looking things at prices you can afford.

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Victoria and Albert Museum
South Kensington SW7
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Closed 23-27 Dec and 1 January.

Arts Council
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Bursaries for Composers 1977/78

The Council proposes to award to composers two major bursaries of up to £2,500 and six minor bursaries of up to £250. The closing date for completed applications is 15 January; decisions will be reached in February.

Intending applicants should write for an information sheet and application form, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to the Music Officer (Bursaries) Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 6AU.

The scheme excludes jazz composition, about which there will be a further announcement.

NATIONAL
THEATRE

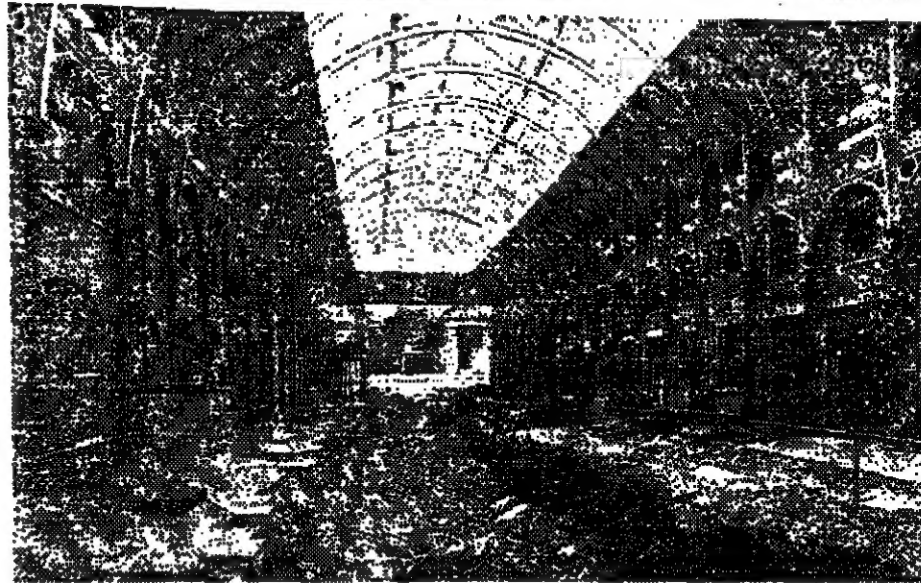
LIVE MUSIC in the foyer before evening performances and Saturday matinees.

EXHIBITIONS, RESTAURANT, CINE PARK, BARS, BUFFETS, BOOK-SHOPS.

PRICES OLIVER AND LYTTLETON

Stalls: £1.75, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50, £9.50, £10.50, £11.50, £12.50, £13.50, £14.50, £15.50, £16.50, £17.50, £18.50, £19.50, £20.50, £21.50, £22.50, £23.50, £24.50, £25.50, £26.50, £27.50, £28.50, £29.50, £30.50, £31.50, £32.50, £33.50, £34.50, £35.50, £36.50, £37.50, £38.50, £39.50, £40.50, £41.50, £42.50, £43.50, £44.50, £45.50, £46.50, £47.50, £48.50, £49.50, £50.50, £51.50, £52.50, £53.50, £54.50, £55.50, £56.50, £57.50, £58.50, £59.50, £60.50, £61.50, £62.50, £63.50, £64.50, £65.50, £66.50, £67.50, £68.50, £69.50, £70.50, £71.50, £72.50, £73.50, £74.50, £75.50, £76.50, £77.50, £78.50, £79.50, £80.50, £81.50, £82.50, £83.50, £84.50, £85.50, £86.50, £87.50, £88.50, £89.50, £90.50, £91.50, £92.50, £93.50, £94.50, £95.50, £96.50, £97.50, £98.50, £99.50, £100.50, £101.50, £102.50, £103.50, £104.50, £105.50, £106.50, £107.50, £108.50, £109.50, £110.50, £111.50, £112.50, £113.50, £114.50, £115.50, £116.50, £117.50, £118.50, £119.50, £120.50, £121.50, £122.50, 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Commercial Property



Part of the original Covent Garden central market building, where old cellars are being excavated to produce sunken courtyards.

The Continental property market continues to show signs of activity, more particularly, perhaps, in the office leasing sector.

From Belgium comes news that in a state of lettings Jones Lang Wootton have let the whole of the space owned by Tower Group Properties in the Arbury Tower, one of the most conspicuous buildings in the city.

The Arbury Tower, at the junction of the Kenilworth and the Frankfort, provides a total of 25,000 sq metres of office space. The building is a three-storey structure, one of the most conspicuous buildings in the city.

The American Embassy is expanding its facilities in Brussels by leasing the new development recently completed by Herpa at 25 Boulevard de la Reine, in the Quarter Leon, adjacent to the Embassy's present premises.

The building, Regent 25, has 3,500 sq metres of air-conditioned office space, and is situated on the Rue des Arts, between the EEC headquarters and the Royal Park. This building, also known as the Lang Wootton.

A series of lettings in Brussels is also reported by Jones Lang Wootton. In one a firm of Belgian architects has taken 1,500 sq metres in the Marnette Building, in Avenue de Tervuren. A further 1,300 sq metres have been let in the Commercial Union building, at 39 Avenue des Arts to SDRB, a branch of the Belgian government.

IFT Europe is to lease 1,250 sq metres at 489 Avenue Louise, a development recently carried out by Generali. The Italian company obtained the lease between 2,000 and 2,600 francs a sq metre.

The agents point out that it is of interest that the new lettings are spread over different office sectors in the city, rather than confined to any given zone. The tenants represent a cross-section of different activities.

Back in London, Myton, Ltd., member of the Taylor Wood-

Flurry of activity in Belgium

row group, has started work on the transformation of the original central market building in Covent Garden for the Greater London Council. At £2m, it is believed to be the largest contract ever awarded by a local authority for the restoration of a derelict building.

The GLC plans to restore the central building as nearly as possible to its original state and adapt it for use as a shopping area with offices and leisure facilities. Due for completion in the spring of 1980, it is part of the larger scheme for the whole area. An interesting point is that the building is a labyrinth of over 200 small brick cellars, which were used mainly for storing fruit. Some will be excavated and opened up to create sunken courtyards with staircases from ground level.

The Covent Garden Market Authority has sold a site of some two acres of surplus land adjoining the main entrance of the new Covent Garden market at Vauxhall for a price approaching £300,000. The land is to be developed by Flaxley Industrial, who are to build a wholesale cash-and-carry unit of 35,000 sq ft which has been let to Lonsdale and Thompson, a subsidiary of Union International.

This will occupy about three-quarters of the development and the remainder will consist of two factories of 6,250 sq ft each.

Knight Frank and Rutley acted for the market authority and Peter Taylor and Co for Flaxley. Both have been retained as letting agents.

The New Forest District Council has nominated Tesco as developer for the Ringwood town centre redevelopment scheme, which underlines the increasing tendency for retailers to act as their own developers. The site lies between the main

public car park and the High Street and the aim is to revitalize an under-used and semi-derelict part of the town centre. Plans provide for a major supermarket of about 29,000 sq ft gross and nine shops, to cost a little over £1m. Architects are Jackson Green and Down. The site is within a conservation area and the scheme has been designed to harmonize with the existing architecture of the area.

It will include a listed Victorian meeting house within the landscaped pedestrian mall. Tesco was selected by the council from among a number of companies invited to submit proposals. Other bidders were Rowden & Consultants to the council have advised on the preparation of the developer's brief and assessment of the submissions.

Building work is well under way on new shop development at Pinner Street, in the field, by Commercial Union Properties. Designed by John Brown and Partners, the scheme consists of five units and has a frontage of about 87 ft to Pinner Street.

It is due for completion in late July 1978 to allow ample time for shop-fittings before Christmas. Lettings in the new development are being handled by Eadon Lockwood and Riddle, of Sheffield, and Hillier Parker May and Rowden.

Malings Ltd has let a warehouse of 17,300 sq ft on its Gable Farm Industrial Estate in Rugby to Access Equipment Ltd. This brings the total amount of space now disposed of on the estate to nearly 80,000 sq ft, with negotiations nearing conclusion on a further 27,700 sq ft. There are further units ranging from 2,375 to 17,300 sq ft available for immediate occupation.

Rents are from 50p a sq ft. The estate is well located in relation to the motorway network and other tenants include Newton and Bennett, Kingsbury Warehouse and Mousley Trucking.

Malings intends to continue its development plans for the estate, with the construction of a third phase to be ready in 1978 in which tenants' requirements could be incorporated. Joint letting agents for the estate are Chamberlain and Willows and Don Willis and Associates.

Gerald Ely

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Business for Sale

BUSINESS FOR SALE?

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A NEW BUSINESS IN THE NEW YEAR?

Three established retail allied businesses in the Midlands. The businesses are well established and have a good reputation. The owner is leaving the country and is looking for a buyer who can take over the businesses. The businesses are well located and have a good customer base. The price is £25,000. Ref: A.C. 01-734 8155

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Please send Curriculum Vitae with names and addresses of three referees to:
The Managing Director
D. R. Llewellyn Group of Companies
West End House
11 Hills Place
London W1R 1AG

CHELSEA COLLEGE (University of London) Academic Registrar

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University of Western Australia

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Overseas Property Farms & Smallholdings

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AUSTRALIA

Applications are invited for the following posts for which applications should be sent to the Australian Education Service, 17 February, 1978.

Griffith University Brisbane

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Tennis



Miss Wade (left) and Mrs King with the trophy after her victory yesterday.

Mrs King begins new chapter in a book that was ready for printing

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The inaugural Bromar Cup tennis tournament, which serves as a vanguard for the planned European extension of the women's indoor circuit, was something of an anti-climax at Crystal Palace yesterday. The arena was almost packed to capacity, which indicated that the public had finally realised something special was happening. But the singles final, which had aroused great expectations, was a brief and mostly disappointing spectacle.

Billie Jean King took only 67 minutes to beat Virginia Wade, the Wimbledon champion, by 6-3, 6-1. Except for a flurry of concentrated energy that was her four games out of five in the middle of the match, Miss Wade played as though her 1977 schedule had lasted a day too long.

By contrast Mrs King spent much of the year convalescing and rebuilding her muscular strength after the latest in a series of operations that make one wonder how much surgical excavation one woman's knees can stand. She has been beaten only once in her last 30 singles matches, and has confessed that every time she does on court she feels she is playing on borrowed time—that every day's tennis is a bonus. As never before, she has been appreciating the simple joy of running. She said yesterday: "It's the greatest thrill for me when someone gives me a drop shot and I can get to it."

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ITINERANT AUDITOR, £4,500. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the firm's business and will be required to provide advice and assistance to clients.

Golf

The buoyant Pollard plots his course to Waterville in style

From Dudley Doug
Manila, Dec 11

Spain retained the World Cup at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club here today, but only after many anxious moments through the final round. The champions, Severiano Ballesteros and Américo Garrido, took the lead on the 18th hole, but were overtaken by the Canadians, who had a three-stroke lead over the Spaniards, in the final hole.

The day opened as hot and bright and dry as usual—not surprisingly, since the Philippine Air Force had been ordered to clear the air of clouds over the Manila area.

The Spaniards, who had a three-stroke lead over the Canadians, in the final hole, took the lead on the 18th hole, but were overtaken by the Canadians, who had a three-stroke lead over the Spaniards, in the final hole.

Hockey

Southgate pay penalty in trial by ordeal

Southgate, champions of Europe, were locked out of the national club hockey tournament by Guildford yesterday. Guildford won 3-1 on penalty strokes, and qualified for the final of the tournament.

The match began brightly enough for Southgate, Corby clearing its course with neat flicks and passes and subtle over-land passes. Corby himself would have scored in the first minute but for a save near the line by the Guildford defence.

The first of two 15-minute periods of extra time, Southgate became permanent residents of the Guildford circle. Long corners gave way to short ones. Numerous centres by Brookman from the right led to scrambles, but the Southgate defence held.

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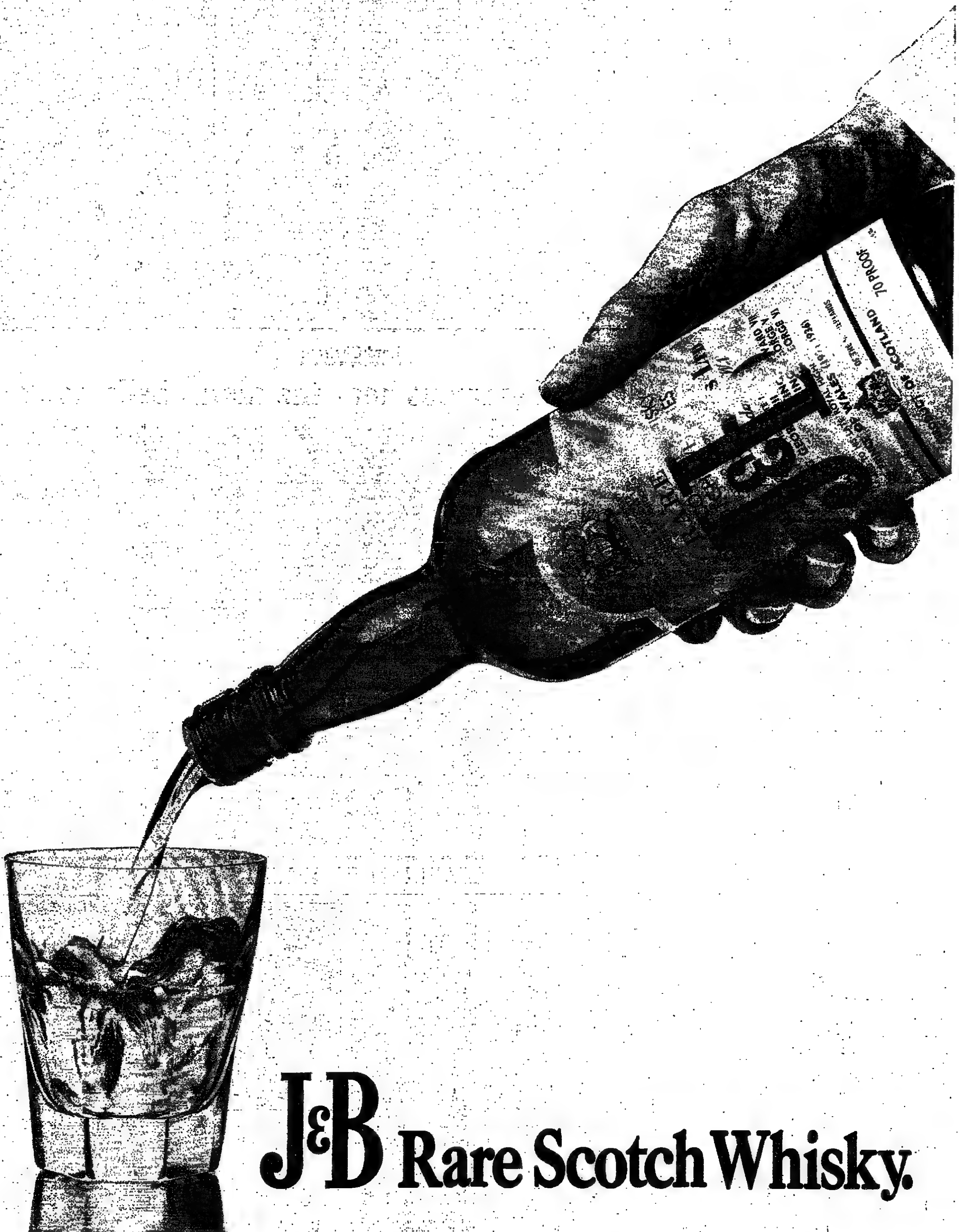
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made charts of each green, shading in the surrounding patches of nap for future reference.

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Final team and individual totals

Team totals
Spain 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MR FRASER VINDICATED

So Mr Malcolm Fraser was right after all. He has comfortably won the extension of time he wants, and conceivably more. His majority over the Australian Labour Party will not be precisely known until the second preference votes are all distributed, but he is unlikely to have lost more than a handful of seats, and he may even come out of the election with as big a majority as in 1975, itself a record. A few observers think he may top it. In the Senate, it is likely of which is reflected, he is likely to have an adequate majority.

Those who thought he was unwise to call an early election have been confuted. But at one time this election was borne out by the peculiar oscillations of the opinion polls, and the misadventure of Mr Fraser's campaign. It certainly looked as if the electorate were initially displeased with being bounced into pronouncing an early verdict on the Government's shaky record, and at one stage Mr Whitlam seemed to be winning. On election eve the polls were again predicting a modest victory for Mr Fraser.

What went right for Mr Fraser? What went wrong for Mr Whitlam? The off-the-cuff explanation is that the electorate have not after two years forgotten the Cabinet upsets, scandals and financial mismanagement of Mr Whitlam's term. This may be so. The electorate could observe, from

the last leadership contest, that his own party had little confidence in Mr Whitlam. It looks as if initially the electorate moved away from Mr Fraser because the Government has so far failed to deliver prosperity, and stability, but then on reflection decided that a new Whitlam interlude would produce even less stability, in fact a return to the tension and confusion of the first Whitlam interlude. Indeed, it may be argued that they were really voting for Sir Robert Menzies and the halcyon retrospect of the 1950s.

Such an interpretation is even borne out by the phenomenon of Mr Chipp and his Democratic Unionist Party. They polled well, if not as well as voting intentions suggested, and Mr Chipp won a seat in the Senate. The Chipp party is a kind of moralistic liberalism, and it collected a lot of protest votes from both major parties, but mostly from Labour; the distribution of preferences suggests that their second choice was heavily for the Liberals. In roundabout way Mr Fraser has been told he must do better, and he must humanize his policies, but he is to be given time.

This is a picture, all in all, of a preponderantly conservative society. It may surprise many who view the strikes, the union power, the egalitarianism of Australia. But the core of the nation is not representative; they express the fact that everyone feels an obligation to join one but nobody

can be bothered to go to branch meetings and control them. The result is appalling, and causes Australians to vote against Labour politically, when they are legally compelled to vote. Australia, like all countries of white settlement, is anything but militant and revolutionary in sentiment these days. Mr Whitlam's attempt to accommodate or reeducate this attitude with his dynamic "democratic socialism" has run aground. The immigrants, coming from socialistic backgrounds and largely reliant on small business in their rich new environment, are probably more to the right than the older residents. It is a middle-class, materialistic, moderate society that begins to see it is well-off and has a lot to lose in a dangerous and predatory world.

Mr Fraser must now address himself to getting a grip on inflation, that snake in all middle-class paradises. If he can he bids fair to emulate Sir Robert Menzies' long reign. Mr Whitlam has bowed out. Mr Hayden may make a good successor. But it is Mr Robert Hawke, who is both federal trade union overlord and federal Labour Party president, who must reconsider the Labour role in face of this massive restatement of political attitudes by his fellow countrymen. To reach by allowing them to be punished by market labour trouble and Marxist malarkey might be unwise. Mr Fraser has a mandate for trade union reform.

Curbing the sale of pornography

From the President of the Publications Control Board
Sir, The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester in his recent letter (December 5) tells us how "in order to combat the sale of pornography in a police of just less than 10 months" carried out 254 raids on bookshops, other shops, stalls and warehouses, and seized 1,600,000 articles (books, magazines and films) alleged to be pornographic or obscene, with a total retail value of £211,500, adding with apparent haste that in one police division 38 raids on 13 bookshops resulted in their complete closure. He continues "I have been publicly criticized by persons who do not approve of the manner in which I choose to exercise my discretion to enforce the law".

In this he is right. I criticized him both at a public meeting in Manchester on October 13, when I was an impartial chairman, and three weeks later in a television programme. He was invited to both but, to my regret, declined both invitations.

At the public meeting I heard harrowing accounts from shopkeepers, which no one disputed, of how the police officers had forcibly ejected customers, locked doors, seized quantities of books and magazines, refused to provide receipts, and even in some cases searched private apartments. It is not the manner in which the Chief Constable chooses to exercise his discretion to enforce the law I think that criticism is fully justified. His crusade even produced a raid on a bookshop by the police on a "kiosk run by a woman and a man" who were "selling a Tesco 'bookmark'".

He should now tell us how many cases arising from these raids have come to the courts, and how many resulted in convictions: also how many cases have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service. Section 2 of the Obscene Publications Act of 1959, which allows for trial by jury, and how many under Section 3 which does not. In many cases brought under Section 2 there have been verdicts of acquittal, and juries are held to be representative of public opinion.

Like the Chief Constable I am glad that the law relating to obscenity is now being scrutinized by a committee of the House of Commons. It is implying that the present law "puts upon the police the responsibility of exercising a wholly subjective judgement on aspects of human behaviour and standards of taste, the sooner it is changed the better".

Publishers of this kind of material for adults have publicly stated that if their publications contravene the law they should be free to publish them, and that the distributor or retailer, being aware of their social responsibilities, have set up an independent Publications Control Board to ensure that material is not published, accepted, and which are based on court decisions, are fully observed, and to exercise effective sanctions if they are not. I believe that independent control of this kind is more likely to keep publications within reasonable limits than punitive action by the police which takes a lot of police time and does not always result in convictions in the courts.

JOHN TREVELLYAN, President, Publications Control Board, 11 Soho Square, W1, December 9.

Taxis at Heathrow

From Mr Jasper Parrott
Sir, Do the authorities at Heathrow Airport know that their rules for taxis are a nuisance to passengers? A free for all after 10 pm when supervision ends? This was explained to me the other night by a taxi driver after he had arrived at the airport in a taxi which had been switched off to enable the driver to canvass the waiting crowd for the best fares, leaving the passengers to wait in the cold. I am sure that the taxi drivers, jamming the passing of the English queue, along with so many other traditional British virtues. The scene would have done credit to Naples in a bus queue. One of the taxi drivers had a lot of sympathy for the taxi drivers who may have to wait during the day for several hours in the taxi pool before they are able to get a fare at all. I am sure that the taxi drivers are not enough to pick up a passenger for somewhere very close like Southall.

Very clearly they think they have a grievance and people with grievances are naturally up by joining both respect for the law and for people in general. It is obvious that the whole system needs a radical review.

ASPER PARROTT, 22 Hildgate Street, W8.

Aftermath of Grunwick

From Mr Joe Rogaly
Sir, In his review of my Penguin on Grunwick (December 8) Mr. J. G. Grimmond says that I want the "official" position in our political system.

This is precisely the opposite of the argument in my book.

What I actually advocate is a new constitutional settlement, part of which would be an arrangement whereby the unions would become just as subject to the rule of law as all other groups in society. If as all other groups in society, I say "this absence of any clearly stated code of laws setting out both the rights and the responsibilities of trade unions is the most glaring omission in current British law, weakening the protection that our constitution can offer to trade unions, companies, individual workers and indeed all citizens".

This is in tune with Lord Scarman's 1974 Hamlyn Lectures, and the general point does seem to me the fundamental lesson of the Grunwick dispute.

JOE ROGALY, 100 Cannon Street, EC4, December 9.

Labour and the National Front

From Mr Tim Miller
Sir, From Humphrey Berkeley's letter today (December 10) your readers might think that Hackney North and Stoke Newington is about to return a National Front MP. But at the GLC election in May the National Front candidate got only 6.9 per cent of the poll. And at a recent local government by-election they achieved only 7.3 per cent. True, this was more than the Communist and Liberal candidates combined; but 86 per cent of the voters voted for one of the two main parties. The National Front remains firmly on the fringe.

But if the Left continues to single out the National Front it is playing into the National Front's hands. A policy of confrontation—whether it be implemented as a demonstration against a march, or an attempt to prevent a meeting, or a party political broadcast, or a resolution of the Representation of the People Act be amended to deny racialist candidates rights available to others—is precisely what the National Front wants. There is nothing the National Front likes more than being able to see themselves as martyrs for a cause.

I sometimes wonder if National Front activists adopt their repulsive policies largely because they are desperate need to be hated. Certainly they like fomenting a fight. At the count of the votes after both the GLC election and the recent by-election National Front people in Hackney Town Hall did their best to cause trouble by making offensive racist remarks of a kind that certainly made me want to hit them. That is exactly what they wanted me to do, didn't, and neither should the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully, TIM MILLER, Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, 74 Lissenand Gardens, NW5, December 10.

From Professor J. A. Rex
Sir, In the somewhat surprising discussion which has surrounded the Labour Party's recent party political broadcast on the National

Camden costs

From the Leader of Camden Council
Sir, In order to make a point of the good totalitarian principle that the end justifies the means, I am writing to you to say that the Camden Council on December 9, has stretched the truth so far that it has become almost non-existent.

To my knowledge he has not sought information directly from Camden, but has relied entirely on inaccurate and selective third party reports—always a dangerous practice. Space will not allow me to refute the single inaccuracies. Let me suffice with a few points as examples. The Alexandra Road scheme has not "so far soaked up" £18m. The comparison of original cost and actual estimate is totally false. The final estimate covers three different contracts, the original only one. The average total cost of the housing is high but not excessively so. And so on.

Mr Levin's second example con-

cerns the transport unit of our social services department. What he fails to report (and it was in the "Ham & High") is that this is at least 20 years old and that disciplinary action was taken by the Council.

His selectivity extends to other parts of the "Ham & High". In the same issue from which he quoted a "headline" "Underpinning Angers the Tories", followed by "Camden Council have spent nearly £3m less than it planned to in the financial year ended last March". But this item would not have fitted the image he was trying to create of the power-mad, lunatic profligates of Camden.

Mr Levin is an excellent writer, an amusing writer, and occasionally a perspicacious writer. It is a pity he gets carried away by his own verbiage and loses the ability to distinguish fact from fiction. If he really wants to know what Camden is like, perhaps he will pay us a visit.

Yours sincerely, ROY SHAW, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Camden, The Town Hall, Euston Road, NW1.

From Mr William Waldegrave
Sir, Mr David Lea, of the TUC Economic Department, said in his oral evidence to the Wilson Committee: "I do not think we can say it is a black or white situation but in the 1980s what we are emphasizing is that we are in a whole new ball game when we hope we will have a growth scenario when we believe that profitability in a secular as well as in a cyclical sense will be important." (Wilson Committee Evidence, Vol 2, HMSO, p 53).

Mr Lea is, I believe, Mr Len Murray's key adviser on economic and industrial matters. It is when the TUC is expanding its ambitions towards an ever greater role in economic policy. Some even say that there is a chance that he may be Mr Murray's successor.

I have read the sentence quoted above a good many times. I don't get any nearer to understanding it. It is not untypical of Mr Lea's evidence. Perhaps others will be better than I am at extracting meaning from it. But surely it must be a matter of some concern that people as powerful as Mr Murray and his TUC colleagues draw their ideas from thinkers who speak as incoherently as this?

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, Bristol West Conservative Association, 5 Westfield Park, Redwood, Bristol, November 29.

'Poetry for Pleasure'

From Mr Ian Parsons
Sir, In your notice of my anthology Poetry for Pleasure your reviewer rebuked me for printing a version of "As Ye Came from the Holy Land" which differed appreciably from the text established by Walegh's best editor (Agnes Latham) and for "adding insult to injury" by substituting it "doubtfully" attributed to Sir Walter Raleigh.

But my authority for doing so is no less eminent a scholar than Professor Dame Helen Gardner who has described the poem as "only doubtfully Raleigh's". Moreover both she and Agnes Latham remark that it is a reworking of an earlier, popular ballad. This reworking may or may not have been done by Raleigh. Agnes Latham herself admits that the few poems of Raleigh's we possess are "of dubious authenticity and uncertain text".

As to the text, the version I printed followed the original Oxford Book, and I think any discerning reader would agree that, so far as most of the discrepancies between Q's text and the Bodleian text (which Agnes Latham was modestly bound to print, since it was her sole authority for the attribution to Raleigh) are concerned, the latter is markedly inferior and indeed plainly corrupt. So that it was a little uncharitable of your reviewer to blame me for not printing it and giving it unequivocally to Raleigh.

Yours faithfully, IAN PARSONS, Juggs Corner, Kingston, Surrey, December 9.

The Sporting Year

From Richard Cohen
Sir, The editor of the Sporting Year was particularly sorry when Mr Tom Clarke, Sports Editor of the Daily Mail, declined to allow articles from his paper to appear in the book. Now, in his letter to you of December 6, he says quite correctly that it was originally felt that quality should not be the sole criterion in selecting pieces for such an anthology.

It is unfortunate if our initial approach gave the impression that quality would suffer in the interests of variety, for as the process of selection continued the editors discovered they were able to maintain the highest standards while covering both a wide range of papers (though not, I would point out, a comprehensive one) and the main sporting events of the year. We did, in fact, contact Mr Clarke again to assure him that in no case was the second rate being considered, and we are sure that in the final selection no outstanding article from any paper was left out of account.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD COHEN, Editor, Wm Collins and Son, Ltd, 14 St James's Place, SW1.

The Crown Agents inquiry

From Professor Edward Stamp

Sir, May I strongly support Mr David Howell, MP (Letters, December 8) in urging that the Crown Agents inquiry should see to it that in future the Comptroller and Auditor General will be appointed from outside the Civil Service.

There are also a number of other reforms that need to be made. On April 20, 1976, you published a letter from me in which I commented on the Auditor General's involvement in the affairs of the Crown Agents. I pointed out that the Exchequer and Audit Department is not only understaffed, it is largely composed of people who lack any professional auditing experience or qualifications. Indeed, neither the present Comptroller and Auditor General nor any of his predecessors had had any experience of public accounting or auditing prior to their appointments.

This deplorable lack of professional expertise is something which the investigators into the affairs of the Crown Agents may wish to consider, and I hope they will conclude (as I did in my letter to you 18 months ago) that we need a full-scale inquiry into the financial planning, accounting and control of all government operations and expenditures in this country. The best way to deal with the matter would be to set up a Royal Commission on the financial control of government operations.

One very worrying feature of this situation is the extraordinary complacency displayed by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr Edward du Cann. He has given blanket endorsements of the Exchequer and Audit Department on several occasions, most recently in the debate in the House of Commons last week when he exclaimed that "the whole House has total confidence in the Exchequer and Audit Department's ability as an audit department". I think this is very badly overstates the case. It is bad enough having civil servant watchdogs that do not, or cannot, bark. It is infinitely worse having a Public Accounts Committee Chairman whose chief duty is to say "to be his ability to wag his tail."

Yours faithfully, EDWARD STAMP, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, December 8.

Economic evidence

From Mr William Waldegrave
Sir, Mr David Lea, of the TUC Economic Department, said in his oral evidence to the Wilson Committee: "I do not think we can say it is a black or white situation but in the 1980s what we are emphasizing is that we are in a whole new ball game when we hope we will have a growth scenario when we believe that profitability in a secular as well as in a cyclical sense will be important." (Wilson Committee Evidence, Vol 2, HMSO, p 53).

Mr Lea is, I believe, Mr Len Murray's key adviser on economic and industrial matters. It is when the TUC is expanding its ambitions towards an ever greater role in economic policy. Some even say that there is a chance that he may be Mr Murray's successor.

I have read the sentence quoted above a good many times. I don't get any nearer to understanding it. It is not untypical of Mr Lea's evidence. Perhaps others will be better than I am at extracting meaning from it. But surely it must be a matter of some concern that people as powerful as Mr Murray and his TUC colleagues draw their ideas from thinkers who speak as incoherently as this?

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, Bristol West Conservative Association, 5 Westfield Park, Redwood, Bristol, November 29.

Imprisoned in Cuba

From Mr Hugh Thomas
Sir, In the frequent discussions held about political prisoners there is one group which gets little attention: the political prisoners in Cuba. But even Fidel Castro has admitted there are more than a thousand of these.

December 11, as it happens, marks the eighteenth anniversary of the trial of Major Huber Matos, the best known of these forgotten captives. Matos was a comrade-in-arms of Castro against Batista, and was military governor of the province of Camaguey between January and October 1953. He was sentenced to 20 years for "uncertain, antipatriotic and anti-revolutionary conduct". But the prosecutors did not establish that Matos had done anything against the Cuban regime, and the trial was anyway unfair since both Castro and his brother made overbearing speeches when appearing as witnesses. Matos himself had to make his speech of defence at six in the morning.

Since then he has been in prison, along with many others who disliked the "communization" of the Cuban revolution, in what have been by all accounts terrible conditions.

Eighteen years! What crime could anyone commit which would deserve such inhuman treatment? Yet not only is there little chance of Major Matos being freed before his sentence is up but there is a serious doubt whether he will be freed even when he has fulfilled his 20 years. Cuba is busy trying to

Eating in Britain

From Dr Simon Behrman
Sir, Your "innocent abroad" might be informed that over-eating British boardrooms has a fiscal cause and is not a symptom of manic-depressive psychosis. Yours truly, SIMON BEHRMAN, 33 Harley Street, W1, December 9.

SHIPS IN A BUYERS' MARKET

Later today Parliament and the public should have a good deal more information about the terms of the controversial £115m Polish shipbuilding deal. Mr Callaghan, who nailed his colours to the Polish mast on the eve of this year's Labour Party conference, has been less than forthcoming in parliamentary exchanges and his ministers, in the persons of Mr Varley and Mr Kaufman, have been equally reticent on the details of the deal under which order-starved British shipyards will build 24 vessels for Poland in the next two years.

The debate today provides the first real opportunity to question ministers. Parliament should seize it. It is of paramount importance that the Government provides the full facts of the expenditure involved in securing the deal, for it is already clear that the cost to the taxpayer will be substantial. Six months ago the House of Lords was told that details would be given once the contract was signed, and the Government would be less than frank—given that the framework of the package has already been agreed and signed—if it did not now clarify the terms.

There has been a reluctance on the part of all those involved to explain in detail the terms of the deal. Ministers have spoken of the 8,000 man-years of work which the Polish package will provide, but, from the statements so far, the Government and so the taxpayer appear to

have entered into an open-ended commitment to build ships for Poland providing 100 per cent credit, with a direct subsidy equivalent to £4,000 for every man involved; and with the ships that are built having the capacity to compete with the British merchant marine and those of other western nations.

Other nations manifestly shied away from the order when the Poles explained their onerous financial requirements. But the Government, presumably with an eye on constituency interests and an approaching general election, has strained to meet the Polish demands. In spite of a direct subsidy of some £28m on the contract, some workers in the Tyne yards are persisting in their demands for parity with other trades in the same yards. By that Tyne-side may be deprived of the seven ships that were to be placed there. This would have the effect of seriously undermining the already shaky economics of the entire deal.

The Opposition has sought unsuccessfully to persuade one or other of Parliament's select committees to investigate the circumstances leading to the order. Ministers have been hiding behind the hypothesis that confidentiality. This simply will not do. Public money is involved and the country has a right to know the extent of the commitments being entered into on its behalf.

There are other questions

about the contract which need to be answered. What is the extent of the penalty clauses if the shipyards fail to deliver the required two ships each month in 1979? On what minimum freight rates will the ships be operated by the shipping company once chartered from the joint British-Polish holding company? Are there provisions to prevent the ships competing with western merchant vessels in the cross-shipping trades between third countries? British shipbuilders have sought assurances of cooperation and industrial peace from those involved in constructing the £115m fleet of vessels. In view of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' longstanding claim for a substantial wage increase, it has to be asked what those assurances are worth. British shipbuilders must spell out its rationalisation of shipbuilding capacity over the next few years to conform with the EEC Commission's policy, and MPs will require to know whether urgent reforms of the structure of the industry will be postponed.

Ministers have insisted that the Polish deal has been cleared by the EEC Commission, which monitors questions relating to unfair competition. If this is so, then details of the agreement denied so far to Parliament must have been provided by British ministers. Parliament cannot be content with less information than the European Commission.

The argument that the anti-socialist vote must be maximized for long-term reasons, even if there are short-term disadvantages to the Conservative Party, industry and the City have increasingly limited their scope for a party committed to PR and a broader anti-socialism, although this factor is not so much exaggerated.

But Mrs Thatcher and the Conservative front bench have a critical general election to fight within a year, and it is too much to ask them in Opposition to take a theoretical stand on an issue that could eventually place an anti-imperialist Liberal Party in a position where, as now, it exercises the balance of power over any Government's policy choices.

An overwhelming majority of Westminster backbenchers privately were the last to open the floodgates of Labour and Conservative leaders and party managers. On a first-past-the-post system, they can always roughly calculate their own electoral chances on any system of PR, and so they think they should be at risk. They therefore cling to the electoral map and the electoral rules they know, which prescribe a general election as a contest essentially between the two main parties, one of which will clearly provide the government, and the other the alternative government.

On that argument, no concession should be made to the Liberal Party on PR in any thin-end-of-the-wedge legislation. If it were, then the Scottish devolution Bill illustrates the danger. Give an inch, and you surrender a mile. Better stand and fight. Better be Pétain at Verdun and say: "They shall not pass."

Nevertheless, in all reason, for the European Parliament's first direct elections, considered on their own, an element of PR carries no immediate dangers to the two main parties and has much to recommend it. First, except for rabid anti-communists, it is better European elections that are demonstrably unavoidable come, early rather than late, and the Government's proposed regional list system is manifestly the quicker method. Secondly, subsequent rounds of European elections will any event have to be on a uniform system throughout the Community, and nobody doubts that the European choice there will be some form of PR. So tomorrow's Commons division, on a long view, is irrelevant in all except terms of party power. But, at any rate, if it is any satisfaction, there will be a crowded House for it.

David Wood

From an empty Commons—bingo a Full House

Last Thursday The Times damagingly showed on its front page how the House of Commons, from the Treasury bench down to the newest back benches, can reduce democratic parliamentary government to a puppet show. The method could not have been simpler.

Before the House was the undeniably important constitution Bill to transfer some Westminster powers to an independent assembly in Edinburgh, and perhaps begin the breakup of the United Kingdom.

As the guillotine fell on clause upon clause, The Times recorded how few MPs of all parties had been in the chamber to hear the skeletal argument or contribute to it. At the lowest, there were only 18 ministers. Opposition front benches and back benches attending; at the highest, there were only 78. All the rest absented themselves and waited to vote as the Whips ordered. It was quite disgraceful. By passing a time table motion MPs had ordained that it was their votes not their voices, that should count.

A similar "attendance table" tomorrow night would be instructive. The House will be settling whether the United Kingdom should vote in direct elections to the European Parliament either by the regional list system, with its half-baked form of proportional representation, or by the familiar first-past-the-post system. There will be a free vote all round, and no guillotine.

At all hours, the House will be reasonably full, and the vote will be high when the division bells ring. Both the main parties will be split, but the first-past-the-post system is virtually certain to win hands down. It will be regarded, no doubt, as democratically admirable. That I take leave to doubt.

The behaviour of the Commons on the two Bills will be utterly different, though the motive will be identical. We stand within a twelvemonth of a general election, and therefore party leaders and rank and file are preoccupied with the tactics of power. Scottish devo-

Times Interview

M. Jacques Chirac

'The Bulldozer' is still on the move

Since M. Jacques Chirac was elected nine months ago to be the first Mayor of Paris in a century and a half, he has assumed with his characteristic drive and energy responsibility for the life and well being of the 3,000,000 inhabitants of the capital. This is in addition to his other already numerous and time-consuming activities of president of the reorganized Gaullist movement, the Rassemblement du Peuple Français, deputy for his constituency of Corréze in central France, and of the departmental assembly.

More than ever he lives up to the nickname of "The Bulldozer" which he had earned as young minister of President Pompidou, carrying on business "at the gallop" (a favourite expression of his), spurring neither himself nor his vast team of experts and advisors both at the Paris Town Hall and at the headquarters of the Rassemblement in the rue de Lille. He still finds time to visit his constituency once a fortnight on average, and to keep in close touch with local problems.

He works in the morning at party headquarters, and in the afternoon and evening at the Hôtel de Ville. But he is no deskbound mayor. Always on the go, visiting schools, markets, building sites, receiving delegations, and dignitaries, pensioners and parliamentarians; planting trees and presiding with an iron hand over the debates of the Paris Council, holding press conferences, addressing meetings, welcoming the winner of the Tour de

France, or Mr. Breznev, supervising and controlling everything, and insuring that Paris and himself are always in the centre of the political stage. In the past six weeks, he has even found time to visit 22 departments, where his rhythm of activity is as intensive as in Paris. And he intends to have covered all 90 before the March elections.

When I called on him in his huge corner study on the first floor of the Hôtel de Ville, big enough to contain 80 people comfortably without moving the furniture, and acknowledged to be the finest office in Paris, he was just about to go off to some ceremony and had just received a string of visitors the whole afternoon. M. Chirac is a man who is always in a hurry, but never flustered, quite certain of what he is doing and where he is going. In his few months of tenure as mayor, he has shaken up the whole administration of Paris and its 30,000 officials. They have all felt the touch not of a new broom but of the new whirlwind. By comparison, the government of the country seems almost lethargic in its bureaucratic ponderousness.

M. Chirac is always decisive and even incisive. His aim is to insure that the Gaullists and himself are as indispensable to the government of the country in the future as they have been since 1974, when he put M. Giscard d'Estaing in power; and to retain the initiative of political action. He did so again last week by announcing his request to be received by the President, in order to convey his concern at the stagnation of the govern-

ment majority's appeal with the voters, in spite of the split between Socialists and Communists two months ago.

Doubts do not shake him. He counters the talk of the town about the soul-searching and difficulties of the Gaullists, and their alleged loss of public confidence in himself and his party. He dismisses opinion polls with a wave of the hand. "Had I believed in them, I would never have become Mayor of Paris," he told me. His sights are set far and high. Paris is only a stage, if a key one, on his road to the political summit—in other words, to the Presidency.

The Gaullists... a genuine popular party

It is a year since he turned the UDR into the RPR, to give it a new and more attractive image, and attempt to win back a part at least of those popular votes which General de Gaulle had wrested from the left. He feels he has won his gamble. "Only the verdict of the polls will tell," he said. "But I think we have two reasons for believing we have been successful: we have two and a half times as many members as a year ago; and the motivations of

those who have joined us show that three quarters of them come from the opposition, generally from Socialist supporters."

Some of his opponents, I remarked, had tried to pin a right-wing image on him and on the Gaullists. What was their motive? "The reason is simple. Many people want to limit our action, and therefore caricature our aims—some in the opposition because they appreciate we are the greatest obstacle to its expansion, and some in the government majority because they hoped two or three years ago that the Gaullist party would disappear, and rejoiced prematurely. They still try to give a false image of us, and to check our growth."

He is convinced that the Gaullists have a genuine vocation as a popular party, and are better placed than any other of the government majority to draw away support from the left. In fact, he rejects the distinctions between left and right. For him, there are the "social-communists", or the "collectivists" as he calls them, and the others. "We are very open to voters from all quarters, who are prepared to accept that our society tomorrow should be constructed on the principles of freedom and responsibility, and who are ready to bring us their own commitment, their sensitivity, their generosity, if that is what one calls the left. And we are ready to further their hopes."

Had Gaullism died with General de Gaulle, and become a party like any other as it was often suggested? "Gaullism was not born with General de

Gaulle, and did not die with him. It exists whenever, in crucial periods of French history, there are men who say 'No'. Therefore it did not die with him. I have always said that we are not the spiritual heirs of General de Gaulle. The whole French people are. We are his faithful disciples. Believe me, that is a tough enough job in itself," he replied.

Turning to the March elections, I asked him why he was convinced that the government parties had everything to gain by going into battle under their own separate banners, and having "primaries" between them, rather than putting up a single candidate as they did in the past. His answer was crystal clear. Either one had a situation where the President of the Republic committed himself fully and put forward his candidates, who would become his majority after the elections, as was the case under General de Gaulle and President Pompidou, and direct elections to the European Parliament earlier this year. That is why he has emphasized more than once in recent weeks that he opposed any suggestions that the Prime Minister should bring the Gaullists into line with the other government parties behind a sort of common programme of the Government, euphemistically described as the Government's "objectives of action" or to give a kind of seal of approval to the candidates of the majority, as this would indirectly create an artificial distinction between the "good" and the "bad" ones.

The Prime Minister leads the Government, and he already has a good deal of trouble doing so, for things are not going as well and as fast as he wishes, to say the least. On the other hand, everything he can do to mobilize the majority will naturally be welcome. As for the "objectives of action," I am very reserved about the formulation of a programme with all its risks of demagoguery this implies on the eve of an election, and the threat to a majority which is united and coherent, and could see it as an attempt to split it, between those who accept it and those who do not.

Or one had a system in which the President did not wish to commit himself fully, and left the parties, within the framework of political pluralism, the possibility of putting forward their own proposals. But in a two-ballot system like the French, led to "primaries" between the candidates of the different government parties. It also reinforced the role of political parties. But in a majority which is diverse, it is a necessity if one wants to poll the greatest number of votes. If one cannot plough deep, one must rake wide. Remember, I have been Minister of Agriculture," he quipped.

The Gaullist leader considers that the left divided is as dangerous to the government majority as it was united. "God knows whether it will come together again. A patch-up is always possible, especially on a purely electoral plane. Recent local by-elections, notably at Strasbourg, had shown that the switch of votes from Socialists to Communists, and vice versa, in the second ballot was unimpaired by the breach. This did not affect the strategy of the majority parties. "We are told that the political landscape has changed. I have always replied to this that there is no more cause for a sudden burst of optimism now than there was for pessimism some months ago. The Communists and Socialists are as threatening today as they were earlier. In any case, I observe that no one any longer imagines a change in electoral strategy to meet their division."

Of course, the split on the left had tempted the government parties to consider the possibility of shifts of power within the government majority, to the Gaullists' detriment. This temptation was always present, he insisted. But a shift of power could not be devised by party caucuses, however expert. It was a matter for the voters to decide. "Let us wait till they have their say," he added. Did these temptations worry him? "I am not someone who is easily worried," he replied firmly.

There was also a risk that as a result of the split, the supporters of the majority parties might be inclined to feel that the threat from the left had receded. "There is a risk if one does not compensate for the demobilizing effect of the split on the left by energetic action, especially since—though this is no longer the case today—it was presented at one time as holding out extraordinary hopes of victory at the polls," M. Chirac remarked.

As far as his party was concerned, he had set up a programme to visit all the departments of France, with "all that this implies in the way of meetings of every kind, and of personal contacts". He explains his policy and programme to the Gaullist militants, warns them against the blows of the opposition, encourages the militants, usually over an informal meal. He discusses local problems with local dignitaries of all parties who are willing to meet him, and pays particular attention to the local press. And he devotes a great deal of time and effort to meeting the people in the street, shaking hands, exchanging a few words, and kissing babies, according to the

well tried techniques of the traditional parish pump politician, which have stood him in good stead in his own constituency of Corréze, ever since 1967, when President Pompidou sent him out on what was regarded as the almost "suicide mission" of wresting the seat from the Socialists.

M. Chirac's constant preoccupation is to assert the separate identity of the Gaullist movement without weakening the unity of the government majority, and laying himself open to the charge of being its "divisor". As he did over the Government's capital gains tax proposals, and direct elections to the European Parliament earlier this year. That is why he has emphasized more than once in recent weeks that he opposed any suggestions that the Prime Minister should bring the Gaullists into line with the other government parties behind a sort of common programme of the Government, euphemistically described as the Government's "objectives of action" or to give a kind of seal of approval to the candidates of the majority, as this would indirectly create an artificial distinction between the "good" and the "bad" ones.

The Prime Minister leads the Government, and he already has a good deal of trouble doing so, for things are not going as well and as fast as he wishes, to say the least. On the other hand, everything he can do to mobilize the majority will naturally be welcome. As for the "objectives of action," I am very reserved about the formulation of a programme with all its risks of demagoguery this implies on the eve of an election, and the threat to a majority which is united and coherent, and could see it as an attempt to split it, between those who accept it and those who do not.

The right to criticize the Government...

The Gaullist leader considered that the general policy principles enshrined in the "manifesto of the majority" solemnly endorsed by all government parties last September, provided an adequate overall framework for their separate electoral campaigns. "If one has more precise programme, one gets into the situation where one has to bring it up to date—and you see where this can lead," he exclaimed, in a reference to the disastrous attempts of the Union of the Left last September to agree on a revised text of its common programme. On more than one occasion in recent weeks, M. Chirac has insisted that his intention was not to oppose the head of state, but he claims for his party "the right and the duty, as a parliamentary democracy, to express criticism of the Government as and when it felt this was justified. His position is comparable to M. Giscard d'Estaing's own in 1966, when he was out of office and took up within the government majority dominated by the Gaullists a position of constructive criticism summed up by what he called the policy of the "yes but".

When I asked him why, on the Barre Government's economic policy, he had marked his distance, he replied that he had had reservations about it from the start. "I felt we ought to support it because we were assured that at the end of the year fundamental economic equilibria would be restored. This has unfortunately not been the case, and has led me to formulate these reservations more precisely," he added.

He put it in colourful terms: "France is ill," he said. "She does not recover. So whatever the friendship and esteem we have for the physician, we are compelled to admit that the medicine used has not borne the fruits expected of it. We shall therefore propose another, that is to say a policy of reflection and of effort."

The Gaullist movement will

bring out its own economic proposals in January, but already in the "Propositions for France" the emphasis is laid on reflection in depth "to emerge from stagnation and eliminate unemployment", which is described as "morally and socially intolerable"; on the "obligation of growth"; and on the rehabilitation of the national development plan, "which has lost its pre-eminent place in economic policy, and alone can stimulate investment in the direction of the transformations to be achieved."

M. Chirac said: "The impact of economic policy on elections is slight when the situation is good, but when, as in all industrial countries, there is a high rate of inflation and unemployment, it is an important element of the voters' choice. And it becomes a decisive one when, as at present, there is a fifty-fifty electoral situation between the government and opposition."

More than once in the past 12 months, since M. Chirac left the premiership, the Gaullist movement has been alarmed about the drift of foreign and, especially, defence policy away from the fundamental Gaullist principles of national independence. This came to a head in the debate on the defence estimates in November when several of its old guard voiced misgivings about the alleged shift in priority from conventional forces.

M. Chirac stressed that the nuclear capacity of France was an essential part of her national defence. "This capacity is itself based on the determination to use it in an emergency, and on its quality, therefore on its constant modernization and improvement." The RPR consequently felt it was essential that a sixth nuclear submarine (originally programmed but practically shelved in the past two years' defence estimates) should be built, and others after it. Its doubts about the Government's defence objectives had largely been allayed by the Prime Minister's assurances. "But we shall remain vigilant," he declared.

He was not prepared, in reply to a question of mine, to endorse the view sometimes heard in government circles in Britain that there were many points in common between the British and the Gaullist approach to Europe. "I would not allow myself to pass judgment on British policy, but it is not a view that would come to my mind," he said with a smile.

Britain's European policy, as I see it, is based on the desire to preserve her privileges, notably material, undiminished within the Community. That is the meaning of her action on the Common Agricultural Policy. It is not particularly Gaullist. He discerned much more of a Gaullist temperament in Mr. Edward Heath's approach to Europe. This had been the basis of the esteem and friendship which had existed between him and President Pompidou. The fact that the British Government, along with the Gaullists, rejected the European federal structure did not in itself make for a parallel approach towards European problems.

He was raring to go, and I just managed to slip in a last question about the Manichean French approach to politics, the division of France into two blocks, which President Giscard d'Estaing and many political leaders of non-Gaullist parties continue to deplore. "What democratic country is not divided into two blocks at election time?" he exclaimed. "I am fed up with all the talk about it. What country is not divided into blocks? If not Britain divided into two blocks, is not Germany divided into two blocks? Is not the United States divided into two blocks? Each time these countries vote, one cannot tell which of the two blocks will win. It is a direct consequence of democracy. Only in totalitarian countries is there a single block. It is true that here in France tensions are more acute because one of the two blocks refers to principles which are different from the other," he added, with a final glint at the left.

Charles Hargrove
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On the rocks—with gin or vodka—
or as a long drink with ice and soda.
That subtle, unique Martini Dry
taste comes singing through every
time. Fresh...clean...light.
A taste that could be called
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The right one.

Any way.

MARTINI
EXTRA DRY

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and herbs are good enough for the
world's most beautiful drink.

هلا من الاصل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 11. The Duke of Edinburgh left today for an air-craft of the Queen's Flight this morning for Brussels where he will attend the 10th anniversary of the Federation of Equestrian International, will attend meetings of the Bureau of the Federation and the Ordinary General Assembly.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon planted a tree in Windsor Great Park to mark the 10th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

Lord Roper, Nevill, was in attendance.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr. F. Blacker and Miss S. E. M. Davies
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Colonel Blacker, and Lady Davies, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Davies, of Oakgrove, Chesham, Bucks.

Mr. J. P. Campbell and Miss R. J. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Campbell, and Miss Maxwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Maxwell, of Linsford, Cambs.

Mr. J. O. G. G. and Miss S. J. Whitehead
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. G. G., and Miss Whitehead, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Whitehead, of Bowdon, Cheshire.

Mr. A. D. Lewis and Miss P. S. Gaston
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lewis, and Miss Gaston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Gaston, of Bowdon, Cheshire.

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A few brave souls with King Canute's faith cry 'Halt' to a rising floodtide of alcohol

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Humorous puritans disapproving of other people's pleasures; a Scrooge-like resistance to Christmas cheer; the epitome of the killjoy brand of Christianity; those are the images of temperance. The reality is of a few brave souls with the faith of King Canute, crying 'Halt' to a rising floodtide of alcohol.

The new general secretary of the temperance movement, the Rev. Kenneth Lawton, has set out to catch the public eye long enough to tell it that alcoholism has become the primary social disease of the age and is increasing continuously and rapidly. A conservative estimate is of half a million victims, and the number could be twice as high.

He calculates that about one in 25 of the population is seriously at risk of alcoholism and well on the way to it; about one in four is significantly vulnerable, drifting slowly towards the edge. Women, apparently, drift about three times as fast as men.

All the signals are at danger. Not since the temperance movement was founded in 1845 have the main indices of alcohol abuse been so high, and since 1970 they have all passed their initial First World War peak. In 1970 national spending on alcohol was £30m more than on drink; in 1976 expenditure on drink had

overaken those basic food items and was ahead by £345m. The figures had been creeping up since the war, but something seems recently to have changed gear in the national metabolism. Now the "consumption of proof gallons per capita" graph is pointing sharply upwards, even when corrected on a logarithmic scale in an attempt to contain it on one sheet of paper.

The Government is worried. Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has asked the public for suggestions on how to combat drunkenness, and his department is toying with the idea of a campaign in favour of moderate drinking.

Both the appeal for suggestions and the campaign for moderation are revealing: they point to an official bankruptcy of ideas, which is alarming but in the circumstances understandable.

Mr. Lawton's council has the support of all the main churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Coggan, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, and General Arnold Brown, of the Salvation Army, are presidents.

Mr. Lawton became general secretary this summer, and the tone of the council's work has begun to change noticeably. Even the name is not necessarily sacred for ever, he feels, and the direction is away from the "Band of Hope" meetings, demon drink and insane invasion by faith alone.

Mr. Lawton was one of the authors of the controversial British Council of Churches' report on sex in the middle 1960s, which advocated a permissive situation ethic and was ferociously attacked and accused of encouraging licentiousness.

He now says he was wrong: people are not generally mature enough to use such freedom as the then advocated without harming themselves, and he thinks his view of the pressures within society was naive as well.

That caution about human frailty he finds underlined for alcohol. Make it freely available, promote it, thrust it under the noses of housewives in supermarkets, and a frighteningly high proportion of the population will respond by setting out on a course of self-destruction.

The cost is already astronomical. For wife-battering, football hooliganism, street mugging, car accidents, marriage breakdown, low industrial productivity, alcohol has to carry much of the blame.

Neither instant religious conversion nor the vaguely moral Reformation flavour of Alcoholics Anonymous is a ready solution. One is obsolete, or at least irrelevant in a society without much interest in religion, and the other is a self-rescue service for victims after the catastrophe has happened.

Almost all the other bodies in the field, secular or church-based, are concerned with some specialist area such as the treatment of acute alcoholism, opposition to liquor licences, the monitoring of changes in the law, or the encouragement of total abstinence.

Alcohol's victims include the identifiable alcoholic, the "social drinker with a problem", the road casualty, the victim of violence or drunkenness, and most cruelly of all, the baby deformed or handicapped by the newly discovered "fetal alcohol syndrome". Scientific evidence suggests that a daily intake in early pregnancy of as little as one and a half pints of beer "may be associated with substantial impairment of fetal growth".

The scale of the disaster, and the giant commercial forces behind it, make the tiny resources at Mr. Lawton's command look weaker than David's slingshot. He is preparing a campaign for a "drug-free culture", with all that that implies: non-alcoholic meeting places, alternative social customs and pastimes, a new set of values.

A minority who like that sort of thing may follow him, but it is the majority who are the difficulty, whose occasional harmless pleasure is to drink but whose freedom to do so is threatened at the expense of those for whom it will become a vicious trap.

He frankly admits that it does not sound very hopeful as an answer to an uncontrolled epidemic, which is just coming into season once more.

Appointments in the Forces

ROYAL NAVY
CAPTAIN: R. P. Heath, MOD 100, to be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15. To be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15. To be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15.

ROYAL ARMY
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: A. B. Horton, MOD 100, to be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15. To be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15. To be Commandant of HMS Dryad, Devonport, Dec. 15.

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OBITUARY

MR DAVID HOLDEN

Chief foreign correspondent of 'The Sunday Times'

H. E. writes:

David Holden, chief foreign correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, went to Cairo to report the peace initiative, and died with a bullet in his back, his body abandoned on the fringe of the desert near Cairo airport. It is an achingly cruel end for a man who devoted so much of his life to understanding and explaining man's erratic hatreds.

He was 53. He had just celebrated 12 years with *The Sunday Times* and 24 in journalism and broadcasting.

David Holden looked destined for a long life from early life. His father, Thomas, was the editor of *The Sunderland Echo* and encouraged his son to write *Saturday* football reports. But David, after attending the Friends School, Great Ayton, graduating at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and studying at Northwestern University, Illinois, chose to teach geography in Scotland—where his father was a headmaster.

He was an actor. But after a spell working for the Quakers in Mexico, and realizing, he would say, that his legs were too fat for the theatre, he joined the staff of *The Times*. He was initially assistant correspondent in Washington, and then special correspondent in the Middle East for four years, from 1956. He went to *The Guardian* as a rising reporter and finally to *The Sunday Times* in 1965.

He wrote two books—*Farwell to Arabism* (1966) and *Greece Without Columns* (1972)—and was working on a book about Saudi Arabia. He was an accomplished sound and television broadcaster and scripted and appeared in feature films for BBC and independent television. It was in one of these that he gave a revealing insight into his attitude to journalism: he was not a man to strike postures. More information, he suggested, did not mean better information. The result of much reporting was simply "to turn up the decibels in the Tower of Babel". In all his own reporting he tried to synchronize eye, mind and heart, and to distil his experiences and his reading; he thought it impossible to write about the present without studying the past. This thought and education gave a perspective to his writing that made it more than merely timely or colourful, and it had those qualities.

He returned from Egypt (where he was interned during the Suez war), Israel, India (where Snowden's photographs complemented a searing text), the Persian Gulf, Zaire, Zaire, Zaire, and South Africa and Belfast. He was analytical and adventurous and gave us with great felicity a picture of the life he saw—500 armed Yemeni tribesmen swarming towards him between the adobe houses to thrust upon him written petitions to Her Majesty: a handful of Europeans clustered in the Hotel Pax in Luabulungu in the Congo in 1960 "where the bullets of the mutinous July night have bitten deep into the yellow succulent facade"; and Czechoslovakia, which included British Zionists.

Gentle yet forceful, charming yet independently minded, he had all the qualities of courage and integrity that I admire in a man. The loss is a personal one, but it is also a loss to the world. He was a man who offered the sympathy of Lord Thomson of Fleet, of the directors, and of the editors of *The Times* Newspapers to Ruth Holden, his wife, who, together they drew around them an extraordinary circle of admiring friends who were quick to respond when Ruth's sudden loss needed them all.



Palestinians. Nor was he always right. He thought the Greek colonies were likely to last, and that American influence in the downfall of Allende in Chile had been overplayed. But he was always ready to be persuaded by reason and by evidence.

David Holden leaves a widow, Ruth, and is survived by an older brother. He met Ruth in Nigeria during independence celebrations when she was a reporter for *Life* magazine. He met her again for a second time in 1956, in Ghana, and they married in August, 1962. When he was not travelling he enjoyed a quiet life in Cannibury, gardening and listening to music. He played the clarinet in his youth. He was also an avid bird watcher; he rook, field glassed an every-thing. What he never took with him was any prejudice or bias for propaganda. His death is a loss to journalism.

Sir Denis Hamilton, Chairman of Times Newspapers, who was formerly editor of *The Sunday Times*, writes:

David Holden had been a major pillar of *The Sunday Times* from the period of its expansion in the early 1960s, when we were building up a team of top-notch journalistic writers on politics, economics and foreign affairs to supplement an already outstanding team of experts. He was a survivor from the first, ready to go anywhere to tackle any story, his range was quite remarkable. He was utterly to be depended on to deliver elegant, economically phrased copy with reliable judgment on which one need spend no time in checking. He was a man of great integrity and a brilliant writer. I have given him a whole issue of the colour magazine.

On the Middle East conflict he clearly knew the Arab side better than the Israeli simply because the growth in the oil price of the new Arab states in the Gulf and neighbouring countries produced so many interesting characters and developments for his pen. In the Middle East, he was a man who offered the sympathy of Lord Thomson of Fleet, of the directors, and of the editors of *The Times* Newspapers to Ruth Holden, his wife, who, together they drew around them an extraordinary circle of admiring friends who were quick to respond when Ruth's sudden loss needed them all.

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US jewels sale totals \$614,675

A sale of important jewels by Christie's in New York City realized \$614,675, with 15 per cent unsold. The top price was \$57,000 (estimate \$30,000-\$35,000) for a 2.14-carat diamond and emerald necklace comprising a pendant set with five pear-shaped emeralds on a diamond chain. The total weight of the emeralds was 9.39 carats.

A circular-cut diamond weighing 4.71 carats mounted as a ring realized \$42,000. It is accompanied by a certificate from the Gemological Institute of America stating that the diamond is internally flawless.

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Lady Macleod of Borne greeting the first of 400 "Crisis at Christmas" pilgrims on their arrival at Southwark Cathedral from Canterbury yesterday. Money raised will help the single homeless.



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Marriages

Major C. N. S. P. Bunbury and Miss R. E. F. Farnsworth
The marriage

Telford
has the space
and the people
for growing
companies

Telford
for details of
relocation
opportunities
Call Bob Tilmouth
at 0952 613131

Treasury rejects MPs' advice on two aspects of Bank's affairs

By Christopher Wilkins

Two of the main recommendations of a House of Commons Select Committee report on the Bank of England published just a year ago, are effectively to be rejected.

The MPs' report suggested that the separate economic forecasting functions of the Bank and the Treasury should be merged. It also criticised the level of the Bank's staff fringe benefits, arguing that they should be brought more into line with the changes the public generally has to bear.

A Treasury minute is to be published, probably early in the new year, on the first of these issues and is expected to reject the report's argument for merging the two forecasting units.

The existence of separate economic models was justified to the select committee on grounds that it threw up points of divergence of opinion. But the committee said it was not altogether reassured by the "practical advantage from double guessing at the present imponderables."

The report said: "We would have thought that sufficient independent research was being undertaken to produce results on which the Treasury and Bank economists could sharpen their wits without duplicating staff and resources. We suggest this is an area in which future economies might be sought by seeking to operate only one Treasury/Bank model."

On the second main recommendation, relating to fringe

benefits, it also seems unlikely that any significant changes will be made. The report itemised a number of areas that needed to be looked at, including home loans at 2 or 2½ per cent, 20-year loans at 5 per cent to pay for private education, interest-free loans for season ticket holders, personal loans at 3 per cent and a non-contributory pension scheme.

A joint working party between the Bank of England, Staff Organisation, the negotiating body for Bank staff, and management has already investigated the question of education loans, and although minor modifications have been introduced, it has not substantially affected benefits available to staff.

Another working party has now begun looking at housing loans, but the staff organisation is refusing to consider an overall reduction in benefits, and the Bank appears to accept its arguments that they are part of total remuneration. It has been pointed out that the benefits offered by the Bank are broadly in line with those offered by banks elsewhere in the City.

Other recommendations in the select committee report, which was not in general critical of the Bank's functioning, included one that its capital should not be allowed to fall short of the standards applied to other banks. This suggestion was rejected on the grounds that the Bank's capital was boosted from £12m to £187m, mainly as the result of a property revaluation.

Joint move to restore faith in Tyne yards

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Labor problems at the Tyne-side yards of British Shipbuilders have not, in general, been a cause for concern at the state of the industry, and yesterday's statement is seen as an attempt to restore confidence.

In a joint statement, which has been sent to MPs and ministers, local confederations of British Industries and TUC leaders stressed that industrial relations in the northern region were working well, and that the yards had attracted widespread publicity.

Confidence in the region suffered another blow last week when the Japanese company, Hitachi, decided not to locate a planned colour television assembly plant in the region. This was a blow to the intensive efforts which have taken place to attract foreign investors.

Domestic and foreign cus-

tomers of companies operating in the region have been slow in expressing their anxiety and concern at the state of the industry, and yesterday's statement is seen as an attempt to restore confidence.

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Domestic and foreign cus-

Lorho auditors are cleared of impropriety

By Ray Maughan

Both the finance director and joint-auditors of Lorho have been cleared of any professional impropriety following a study of the findings of the Department of Trade investigation into the company.

The study carried out by the Professional Standards Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and headed by the former director general of the Takeover Panel, Mr. Martin Harris, also found no evidence of any disagreement between the joint auditors that could have contributed to any lack of effectiveness in either their or the board's dealing with the question of an expenses claim.

The ICA also observed that the inspectors' criticisms of the joint auditors' work were "very limited areas of their considerable responsibility."

The criticism centred on the treatment of a retrospective claim for £307,421 involving reimbursement of expenses incurred by Mr. Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive.

Mr. Basil West, the finance director, was criticised by the inspectors for failing to discharge his duty in authorising the claim, while the DoT also criticised the joint auditors, Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Peller, Jenks, Bennett, for not exercising sufficient care in dealing with its verification.

At its meeting on February 13, 1977, the board, which included Mr. West as a professionally-qualified accountant, was advised that funds advanced to him, thereby contravening the provisions of the Companies Act 1948.

This left Lorho with only six days to prepare and verify the expenses claim before the date set for approval of the annual accounts for the year ended September 30, 1976. As it was, the accounts contained no note to indicate that the claim had been hastily verified and might, therefore, be retrospective.

Although the deadline was met, the claim contained a fundamental error in that it included interest allowed to Mr. Rowland upon personal funds, and Mr. West's company-owned property.

The committee accepted that the inspectors were able to gain access to information which revealed the error, of the claim, and believed that given more than six days, Mr. West would have obtained this information.

The ICA stressed, however, that certain non-executive directors should have been given an opportunity by Mr. West to see and approve the claim before publication of the accounts.

Mr. West, the committee decided, should have worked out precise terms covering what he could undertake and what must remain the responsibility of others.

But the time constraints were so tight, against that course, and after careful consideration the committee did not accept the degree of criticism the inspectors made of Mr. West. Mr. Harris and his colleagues also pointed out that a full presentation of the correct claim was incorporated in the accounts for the following year.

Bankers might opt for medium-term policies to stabilize US currency Currency problem on Basle agenda

By Peter Norman

The dollar's sharp decline and its implications for the world economy and currency markets are expected to be among the major topics discussed today and tomorrow by Western central bankers in Basle.

As the central banks taking part have widely different powers, it would probably be wrong to expect a rapid concerted reaction to the latest bout of dollar weakness.

The West German Federal Bank, for example, is largely independent of Bonn, while the Bank of England is generally subservient to the Treasury. The question mark hangs over the effectiveness of the United States Federal Reserve System, where Dr. Arthur Burns, the chairman, has been cast in the "lame duck" role through the Carter administration's reluctance to confirm him in office for another term after his contract expires in the spring.

Other factors suggest caution in weighing the possible outcome of the meeting. Over the past week there has been talk of establishing the swap arrangement between the Fed and other central banks that would allow the American authorities to intervene in support of the dollar and foreign exchange markets. But swaps already exist and have not been fully used by the Fed.

German reaction to the dollar's fall probably gives a clue to future monetary developments. Dr. Oskar Euminger, president of the West German Federal Bank,

gave a speech in Bonn on Thursday in which he stressed that the dollar was undervalued.

But he appeared resigned to Germany having to live with an overvalued Deutschmark for some time, and it appears as if the federal bank, at least, will adjust to the new situation next Thursday by cutting its Bank rate from 3.5 per cent to 3 per cent.

Also in attendance was the statement last Tuesday of Dr. Hans Apel, the West German Finance Minister. Dr. Apel issued his statement on the day that the Deutsche mark fell to its record trading low of 2.1550.

But in contrast to Dr. Fritz Leutwiler, the Swiss National Bank president, who the night before had publicly accused the United States of "sheer neglect" of the dollar, Dr. Apel went out of his way to stress the cooperation between the federal bank and the Fed in combating the dollar's fall.

It later emerged that both Dr. Euminger and Dr. Apel were at a meeting of finance ministers from Germany, France, Britain and the United States in Paris last week, and which was also attended by Dr. Burns. Their statements probably reflected the views of realism when it came to devising ways of lifting the value of the dollar.

Some monetary sources have suggested that the bankers in Basle could well concentrate more on medium-term policies to stabilize the dollar—such as harmonizing interest rates and monetary aggregates—rather than trying to impress the markets

with a spectacular decision such as a new swap arrangement that in the circumstances would have little more than a psychological impact.

This view could well gain the upper hand if the bankers felt there was room for a technical recovery in the dollar exchange rate in the coming week.

The moderate recovery staged by the dollar towards the end of last week is unlikely to detract from the gravity of the discussions at foreign exchange markets remain extremely volatile.

Officially the talks in Basle fall within the framework of the routine monthly discussions between central bankers at the Bank for International Settlements.

But for Japan, Germany and Switzerland as well as the smaller countries linked with Germany in the European joint flow, the present situation of foreign exchange markets is anything but routine. Over the past week, or so, the value of the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc have shot up in value to record heights against the dollar while the strength of the Deutsche mark has exerted a strain upon the European "snake," pushing the Dutch guilder, Belgian franc and Danish and Norwegian crowns down to their lower intervention points against the German currency.

The movements have been accompanied by extensive central bank intervention. Dollar purchases by the federal bank in Frankfurt last week were said to be on a larger scale than at any time since the floating of the Deutsche mark in 1973.

Mr Yeo's prescription for the ailing dollar

The aim of American economic policy remain unclear and there are widespread worries about the extent to which major industrial nations are willing to co-operate in re-ordinating their economic policies.

This confusion is reflected, for example, in the continuing pressure on the dollar in the exchange markets.

There is a danger that the confusion may persist and assume greater proportions if the next summit meeting of the leaders of the key industrial countries is perceived to be a failure, argues Mr. Edwin Yeo, the former Under-Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs, and now chairman of the Asset and Liability Committee of the First National Bank of Chicago.

In his first interview since leaving the Treasury earlier this year, Mr. Yeo highlights the confused state of affairs in the United States, is squeezing the profit margin of foreign corporations and retarding the growth of foreign economies by allowing the dollar to depreciate while calling upon foreign governments to adopt more expansionist policies.

Balance of payments adjustment he regards as necessary, but it should be the result of deliberate policies and, today, the real question is are we going to run the system or not?

By running the system he does not mean increasing intervention by central banks in the exchange markets to regulate exchange rates. Such an approach just did not work. He favoured much greater co-operation between the key industrial countries in the formulation of economic policies, leading to greater policy coordination.

Mr. Yeo refrains from blunt criticism of the Carter Administration, but everything he says reflects a disenchantment with its approach and a most thoughtful and provoking explanation of the confusion that is so widespread.

He points out that the economy is expanding more rapidly than foreign economies, and together with the continuing lack of an energy policy, it is not at all surprising that the United States should be running a large payments deficit.

For the United States today there was no such thing as domestic economic policy, only international economic policy, as the American economy was too large and the dollar too important to the global economic system for any of its policies not to have international consequences.

The Administration would move to dispel many of the uncertainties about the course of its economic policy. This was a vital first step towards stabilizing the dollar and clearing away much of the confusion.

The Federal Reserve Board's independence has to be unequivocally affirmed... one of the most unfortunate developments of the year has been the sense that monetary policy has once again become a political issue.

Frank Vogl

Britain to seek another deferment of EEC exchange controls pledge

By David Blake

Economic Correspondent

Britain will probably apply this week to the European Economic Community for permission to postpone again most of the easing of exchange controls imposed by its treaty obligations.

Foreign talks have been going on for roughly a month between officials of the Treasury and the European Commission, but they are rapidly approaching the crucial phase in which the Government will have to seek a formal derogation from its pledge to scrap "many capital outflow controls on January 1."

The Commission, to be held on December 21, is likely to be the last date on which Commission members could decide on a British application.

Mr. Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, and Mr. Francis-Xavier Ortoli, the Vice-President of the Commission in charge of monetary affairs, are believed to have discussed the British position about two weeks ago.

It seems likely that the Government will want to keep virtually all the exchange controls now apply, but which are due to be scrapped on January 1.

The Government argues that the apparent picture of payments success presented by the latest capital inflow figures is misleading because of the effects of hot money which could be matched by outflows of long-term capital if exchange controls were eased. It thus believes it is a case for demanding a further extension of the deadline, although the United Kingdom is already overdue in its application of the rules enforcing free movement of capital.

In terms of making a case to the European Commission its position is stronger on indirect or portfolio investment in such things as shares than it is the direct investment in factories and plants.

The Commission has traditionally been more concerned to restrict the outflow of direct investment flows because they are tied so closely to jobs and the flow of goods.

In addition, it is much easier to restrict the benefits of liberalisation to EEC countries than to try to impose the same kind of restrictions on portfolio investment. This is because some Community countries have the special high exchange rate of funds, so that money transferred to Frankfurt could be moved anywhere in the world. On the other hand, money exported to build a specific factory is tied to the country for which approval is given.

Because of this, the Government is likely to try to make sure that any concessions it makes are restricted to the direct investment side.

Even here, however, it is likely to give little ground. One possibility would be to ease the "superderogation" under which an investment abroad is supposed to benefit the balance of payments within 18 months. An extension to three years might be a possibility.

The probability of an easing on the indirect investment side might be to relax the 25 per cent "surrender rule" under which anyone who has bought investment currency at the special high exchange rate paid for capital movements has to sell a quarter of the funds at the normal rate if they realize the investment.

Such a change would not significantly alter the outflow of capital, it is argued, but it is thought that the Prime Minister himself personally ruled out such a move in October.

Deadlock on insurance recruitment

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

A recruitment war in insurance is looming between two unions which have failed to agree on territorial divisions in the financial world. The clash is between the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

The TUC has made it abundantly clear that it wants them to sort themselves out "spheres of influence" that would leave Nube in banking, with ASTMS keeping its sights on insurance.

But that, it seems, is not to be. A TUC disputes committee award gave a deadline of December 5 for the unions to reach a deal over recruitment in the Guardian Royal Exchange, whose staff union leaders want to join Nube.

As yet there are no signs of a deal. The TUC says today that the event it could not stand in the way of a transfer of engagements by the GRE union to Nube, and the staff union will ballot—probably in February or March—whether or not to merge. It has 5,700 members and negotiates for 7,000 employees.

Mr. Laif Mills, Nube general secretary, said he did not want to see the two unions attacking each other over recruitment territories. But there was a duty to give people the chance of joining a TUC union, and the staff union would not join ASTMS if it had not been permitted to join Nube.

A merger would be Nube's first incursion into insurance. At present it has members only in the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office and Sun Life of Canada. If GRE joins, Nube will probably set up a special insurance section.

BOC raises Airco stake

By Our Financial Staff

BOC International has reached agreement to lift its stake in Airco, the third largest producer of industrial gases in the United States, from 24 to 49 per cent at a cost of \$77.4m (about £43m).

Its initial objective was to acquire just over 50 per cent, but the Airco board insisted that the BOC will have the right, at any time within the next five years, to increase its stake to a ceiling of 55 per cent.

Financial Editor, page 21

Aerospace to fund own research

By Arthur Reed

British Aerospace, the new nationalized aircraft manufacturing industry, have been told by the Government that they must finance their own research and development of civil projects.

The Government policy is being contested by the state board and representations are due to be made by them to the Department of Industry in the near future.

Their executives are preparing for a battle, not so much on the grounds of money but on the question of principle.

They will tell government ministers that the results of civil aerospace research—military research will continue to be funded by government—has "fallen" far beyond the aerospace industry.

If the Government do not fund civil aerospace research, British Aerospace will meet the bill themselves, but at a much lower level because of the comparatively smaller funds available to them. This could result in their finished products being more expensive than those of their competitors.

At the same time many of their most promising future designers and technicians will probably leave the industry.

The controversy was referred to during the weekend by Lord Beswick, chairman of British Aerospace, when he addressed a meeting of government scientists. He said that the concept of independent profitability should not be pushed by the Government to the point of penalizing the industry.

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* Includes associated tax credit.

Extracts from Mr. W. Riddell's Statement:

The Group is showing the improved results anticipated in the interim report.

Burgess Micro Switch Company and its overseas subsidiaries have had a successful year, with all three companies improving both turnover and profit figures. Burgess Power Tools' sales have strengthened in an uncertain market and exports are buoyant in spite of import restrictions operative in some areas. Steady progress is envisaged during the current year.

Burgess Products' sales and profits improved and the current year has opened with increased demand for all products, and positive growth in both home and export markets is anticipated. Considerable emphasis has been laid on technical improvement and tooling and much new business is being derived from additional engineering facilities now available.

At Burgess Architectural Products the full impact of the recession in the U.K. construction industry has been felt, but promising export enquiries are being pursued in an effort to compensate for the depressed home market.

Burgess Industrial Silencing has again incurred losses, albeit lower than last year, and every effort is being made to speed its return to profitable trading with further improvements being expected in the current year.

European Court rebuffs plea by United Brands

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

A decision against reopening oral proceedings has been taken by the European Court of Justice in the appeal by United Brands, the multinational banana suppliers, against a controversial EEC Commission decision that the company abused its dominant market position.

No date has yet been decided for the court to give its verdict on the appeal, which could have major implications for other multinational companies operating within the Community.

The decision "not to reopen the proceedings is itself likely to 'split off' controversy," United Brands asked for the reopening under article 61 of the court's rules of procedure.

It would have been an exceptional course for the court to take but it would have allowed

both parties to make further representations to the court after what is normally the last act in its hearings, in which the Advocate General gives his opinion.

The Advocate General follows all aspects of the case, assessing the facts and legal issues, and his opinion is the starting point for the court's recommendation to the court.

If the court had decided to reopen oral proceedings it might have been seen as an indication that the Advocate General's opinion was not sufficient. But many lawyers have seen it as a potential weakness of the court's procedure that parties in a case do not have the opportunity to comment on points raised by the court's judgment goes against the company there is still a procedure under which it could seek clarification of the judgment.

Three members of Opec 'ready to cut oil price'

New York, Dec 11—Regard-

less of the pricing decisions made by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries at their December 20 meeting in Caracas, the three key African members are moving jointly towards a price cut, according to a report in the *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*.

Acknowledging that their crude oil is overpriced, Algeria already has informed customers it plans to cut its quality premium differential some 15-20c (8p to 11p) a barrel and Libya and Nigeria are considering similar moves, according to the magazine.

The three, concerned with sagging demand that has weakened demand for their light crude, also have been discussing a "production programme" to reduce output and supply surplus—AP-Dow Jones.

A changed world, page 21

Unions list demands for Carter support

From Our United States

Economic Correspondent

Los Angeles, Dec 11

America's trade unions are angry. They feel the Carter Administration, which they helped to elect, has let them down and failed to fulfil all the promises that were made in last year's election campaign.

The AFL-CIO organization, under the continuing leadership of Mr. George Meany, who is 83, has issued a long shopping list of demands.

They also demand that the Administration supports them, giving warning that it will suffer election defeats next year unless it meets the unions' demands.

Repetitions passed here or likely to be passed in the next couple of days of the AFL-CIO conference, commit the unions to press for a huge public works programme.

They want government aid to the housing industry, an urban renewal programme, reform of the Federal Reserve laws, and much bigger monetary policies, together with the dismissal of Dr. Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

The conference is due to pass a strongly worded protest resolution tomorrow, which calls for import quotas, higher tariffs, and cuts in United States private investment abroad.

The unions want new legislation to support them. Surprisingly, they have won firm support from a number of leading Liberal politicians.

The top priority for the union is jobs. Speaker after speaker has noted that there are still seven million unemployed Americans, half of them under 25 years of age, with the un-

employment rate among young black Americans close to 40 per cent.

The government's Secretaries of Housing, Energy, and Labour, together with Mr. Walter Mondale, the vice-president, all spoke to the conference, but none provided any new concrete measures to satisfy the unions.

Mr. F. Ray Marshall, Secretary of Labour, however, did assert that the Administration would have two million people in public works programmes by 1981.

Mr. Meany reflected the annoyance of the unions with the attitude of the administration: "A promise is no longer enough. Full employment promises must be backed up with comprehensive, effective programmes that will meet that goal. Anything less is unacceptable."

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Lending rate 7 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged at 7 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender:

Applications	£880m	Allocated	£300m
Bid at 7.00%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 7.25%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 7.50%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 7.75%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 8.00%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 8.25%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 8.50%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 8.75%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 9.00%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 9.25%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 9.50%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 9.75%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000
Bid at 10.00%	1,000,000	300,000	300,000

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Gilts: looking beyond the short-term

Their appetites whetted by the November banking figures and greater optimism on the pay front, the institutions had their feet straight back in the trough last week for an early Christmas dinner. In gross terms it looks as if the authorities may have got rid of around £700m of gilt-edged stock, though it may well be that net sales were substantially less.

The assumption, anyway, is that despite a large public sector borrowing requirement the authorities have now tied up the December money supply situation very satisfactorily. And, given the year-end replenishment of institutional liquidity they should be fairly well set to keep the funding programme rolling.

Whether or not a small cut in MLR will be seen as a desirable come-on will probably depend on events. But ahead of the holiday the authorities may well shy away from the idea and should find the discount market tight enough this week to make their views clear if necessary.

The real question about the current gilt market rally is, of course, whether it can in fact travel all that far. The market has started increasingly to look at 1978-79 prospects over recent weeks and by and large, takes a cautious view. The main concern is the potential pressure on money supply as economic growth gathers momentum, and, in the second half of 1978, the possibility of fresh upward acceleration in the retail price index.

That said, general opinion is probably that, barring a wages explosion, the downside risk in long dated stock is limited and that the upside potential could still be reasonable if the wages policy goes better than expected.

More difficult to judge is the market's likely response if the balance of payments deteriorates sharply, thanks, say, to increasing import penetration, sluggish exports, or the reversal of this year's favourable capital movements.

Technically, a deterioration could help the control of the money supply. But for the gilt market, a great deal would almost certainly depend on how investors read the causes of any deterioration. The reality of seeing that the North Sea defences were anything but impregnable could be traumatic.

Dividends

Another year of controls?

The search for ways around dividend control has lost some of its urgency recently as companies have increasingly come to look to the ending of controls next July as being an early enough opportunity to correct some of the dividend anomalies that have arisen during the era of restraint. Stock market analysts have for some time now been basing share assessments very largely on assumptions about the likely pay-outs that will occur when controls are removed. But are they premature?

The Treasury evidence to the Wilson Committee shows that Whitehall recognises that dividend restraint distorts capital markets unduly. But control of dividends has been inextricably linked in the minds of politicians with control of pay. The assumption that dividends will be freed has been based on the belief that pay restraint will end next year, and that it would, in any case, require new legislation to extend the present controls. It now appears, however, that Mr Healey is intent upon a Phase Four, in which case the City might have to concede the possibility—at this stage it clearly is no more—that it would not be politically permissible to extend pay restraint for another year while companies are freely doubling or tripling dividend payments.

In the meantime, however, not all companies have abandoned the search for loopholes. Last week Electronic Rentals came up with a more than doubled dividend as part of its battle against the facility bid from Philips Industries. Philips had already said it did not want the bid to succeed and was only making it to comply with Takeover Panel requirements when it raised its stake from just under to just over 30 per cent of ER. The question, of course, was why, if Philips did not want the bid to succeed, it should have spent £185,000 increasing its shareholding.

As a result of the dividend increase,

Philips' gross income from ER will be about £900,000 higher than it was previously, and, because of all these contortions ER's share price has gone up from 99p to 120p, adding a fifth to the capital value of Philips' investment, or almost £51m.

US bids

The momentum builds up

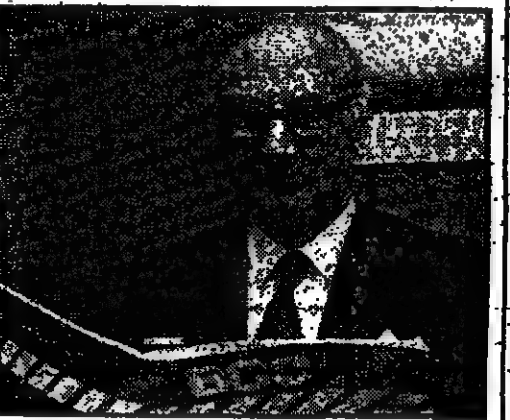
United Kingdom exchange control restrictions are plainly not blunting the keenness of British companies for a United States presence with the path beaten by the likes of Racal, Bechtel and Turner & Newall over the past year gaining momentum in the past week or so.

This Unilever is deep in talks with National Starch, the acquisition of which would fundamentally alter the structure of the group. Hanson Trust is beavering away in its United States operations with a possible merger that could lead to a food group developing with sales of \$1,000m a year. BOC is stepping up its Airco stake (which it discusses below) and potentially most exciting of all GEC has reactivated its United States aspirations in a big way.

Clearly, then, the attractions of the world's largest (and by international standards still fast-growing) market at a time when Wall Street and the dollar are flat on their back are too good an opportunity to miss. The paradox is that despite all the grumblings about exchange control financing United States acquisitions appears to be the last thing to worry about.

The reason for this is that United States capital markets are more than happy to lend against United States assets but are extremely wary about lending to overseas companies to develop their United States business from the bottom. The private placement market in the United States has an almost bottomless capacity to fund overseas acquisitions of United States assets.

That is the route United Biscuits, for instance, has used to fund its United States operations and Unilever will almost certainly tap this market for its National Starch purchase rather than use the American quote of Unilever NV, its Dutch arm.



● The objective of BOC International, whose chairman is Sir Leslie Smith (above), in raising its Airco stake has been to get total security of control so that the two businesses can work properly together. This it has achieved with 49 per cent, but that holding, the maximum acceptable to Airco's board which wanted the business to remain visibly American-owned, falls short of the stake necessary for consolidation which BOC was clearly after.

BOC will consolidate Airco nevertheless, on the alternative grounds that it will control a majority of the board. At Airco's annual meeting next May BOC will take the power to appoint the necessary majority, although it wants to keep at least some of the present non-executives on the board. It has, in any case, reserved to itself the right to increase its stake up to 55 per cent within the next five years if it can present a cogent reason to the Airco board.

In short, BOC has got the substance, if not the detail of what it set out to get. The effect of consolidation will be negligible on gearing but it will add a little to earnings per share. The only complication is that, unlike BOC, Airco does not revalue its assets and BOC will therefore have to apply a revaluation factor for the purpose of its own accounts.

The Euro-sterling bond issues, discussed in this column last week, seem to have been first swallows before a true return of summer for fixed interest borrowing by British companies. When, however, borrowing does return it will be all the more important to remove the present anomaly created by local authority borrowing in the fixed interest market.

It is perfectly easy to do away with the distinction which local authorities create in this market, while at the same time cutting public expenditure painlessly and at a stroke, it is greatly to be hoped that the reform can be made. The distortion arises because for reasons that are not wholly logical the market treats the view that local authorities must have a worse credit rating than central government itself.

By extension, even the best British company borrowing domestically has to have a marginally worse rating than a local authority for otherwise the rating system would appear not to be internally consistent.

Judging by indications coming from within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), the world's leading oil producers seem likely to raise oil prices only a modest amount in the next few weeks—perhaps under 5 per cent—when they meet in Caracas on Monday of next week.

There is even an outside chance that the Opec member states that control more than 80 per cent of the world trade in oil will agree to extend 1977 prices into 1978.

Whenever decision is reached is likely to be unanimous, even though the majority of Opec members would like to see price increases of 8 per cent or more to boost their flagging revenues.

Only two years ago it was the moderates who came to pricing meetings selling off their own oil at a discount of 10 per cent, compared with the demands for up to 20 per cent from the militants. But the oil producers have found to their cost that dominating the world market in crude oil is not enough to ensure continuously rising prices if demand for oil is well below Opec's productive capacity.

As the Opec ministers prepare for the January meeting in Venezuela, even the hardliners cannot ignore the evidence of the depressed state of their industry. Demand for oil in the main industrialised countries of Europe, North America and Japan is rising only slowly at a time when the new oilfields of Alaska and the North Sea are increasing their output day by day. Between them these two sources could supply more than two million barrels of oil a day that previously would have been bought from Opec members.

Production cut

Conserving countries prefer oil from non-Opec sources with the result that nearly all the members of the exporters' club have seen their daily production cut—sometimes quite sharply. It also seems likely that growth in Alaska and North Sea output in the new year will absorb any small increases in consumption, thus securing for the Opec members will have to wait for a significant rise in consumption to make barrels into their five and a half million barrels a day of surplus capacity.

The advent of new oil sources, coupled with low demand, has hit hardest the producers of the less reliable grades of medium and heavy crude oil in the Middle East. An effort to keep production and revenues falling any further, some states have been giving their customers unofficial discounts.

Price cutting is not confined to the Middle East alone. In

The result once again will be that good companies will pay a greater price for fixed interest money than would be the case if their credit ratings were directly compared with the ultimately safe borrower, namely the British Government.

In practice borrowing by a local authority in this country is as safe as any lending can be. West Ham was the last local authority to default and that was in the mid-1920s. Successive Chancellors have said in the most solemn terms that, although local authority debt is not gilt-edged, in practice no government would now allow a default. So why do local authorities have to pay a clear 1 to 2 per cent over the government rate for their money?

Many and various are the reasons given. It is said that people remember that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board was allowed to go; or are nervous because of what happened in New York. But the supposed inequality with the Mersey Docks was precisely what people had been led to believe

over time that the harbour company was as secure as a local authority and were shocked to discover that it was not. And, unlike New York, local authorities here may not borrow for revenue, as opposed to capital expenditure, and they have their capital expenditure tightly controlled by central government through the procedure of requiring loan sanction for almost everything.

More plausibly, it is suggested that lines of local authority debt are less marketable because the issues are smaller. Coupled with the fact that capital appreciation in local authority paper is liable to capital gains tax which is not the case with gilt-edged held for more than one year, this may well be a factor which accounts for the market rating for this kind of borrowing. If that is so, the solution to the problem is simple.

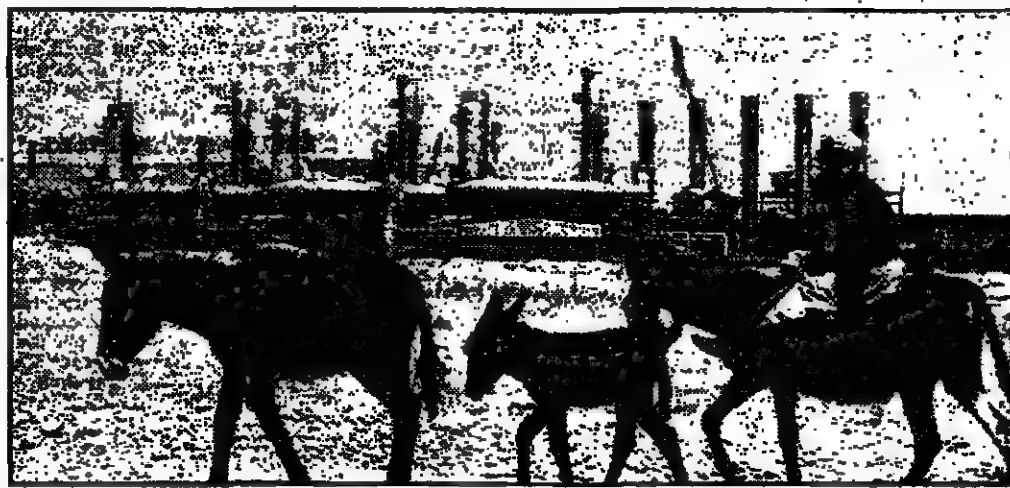
Local authority associations have long represented that the capital gains concession for gilts should be extended to this debt, which is a simpler solution is to abolish local

authority borrowing as such entirely. These funds could be provided to local authorities by extending the present scope of the Public Works Loan Board.

The net effect on the real public sector borrowing requirement would be nil. The investment public would simply be offered fewer local authority bonds and more gilt-edged stock. The problems about marketability and capital gains would have been "finessed". The marginal effect on the price at which the Government could sell its debt would be insignificant.

Some would object that this would be a further erosion of the independence of local authorities. But regulation by central government circulars has become so extensive in financial and other areas in recent years that in reality most of that independence has already been eroded. Meanwhile, if the cost of local authority debt could be reduced by an average of 1 percentage point, that would have saved some £25m of unproductive government expenditure.

Opec in a changed world



Old and new on an Iranian oilfield. Iran has joined those in Opec who are against any large increase in oil prices.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in Caracas next week. Roger Vielvoye, Alaska and the North Sea, make it explains how slow growth in demand from the Western industrialized world, coupled with the advent of new sources of oil in Alaska and the North Sea, make it likely that any price increase agreed on will be small.

Europe, too, oil companies are reducing their industrial oil and petrol prices in response to sluggish market conditions.

Independence of oil buyers, always short on oil-buying bargain, normally stuck up well in advance of an Opec price increase so that they can re-sell their purchases at the higher price in the new year.

In the last three months of 1976 production in the Opec world stood at record levels as everyone in the oil industry bought forwardly ahead of an expected price increase of 10 per cent or more.

The traders have given their own verdict on the outcome of the Opec meeting next week: they expect no dramatic increase—certainly none sufficient to justify the cost of leasing tankers and financing the oil during storage.

However, the simple economic facts of life have never in the past prevented some Opec countries from pushing for increases they could not enforce in the market place. Iraq has been noted for demanding large price rises, agreeing to a compromise on a smaller increase and then undercutting these new prices to avoid losing any market share.

But Opec has suffered the traumatic effects of two-tiered pricing after the remarkable split in the organization at least last year. It took six months to work out a compromise to bring the price structures of Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi and the remaining 11 members back into line. The predictions proved inaccurate

that the Saudis could with their massive surplus capacity force the other members into reducing their prices.

The complexities of two-tiered pricing had a markedly sobering effect and it appears that no one is anxious to repeat the experience.

'Moderates'

Above all, what has ensured that there should be no price revolt this year is the statements from the Shah of Iran and Mr Jamschid Amouzegar, his Prime Minister, that their country supports a further freeze on oil prices in the present state of the world oil industry. Iran thus joins Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi in the "moderate" camp, creating an irresistible force that accounts for almost half of Opec's present production, with several million barrels of spare capacity to add to their negotiating muscle.

Even the most militant members of the majority will recognize that there could be no two-tiered pricing system in competition with these countries. However, in the new mood of moderation, that has followed two-tiered pricing it seems that the three moderates may not fully enforce their advantage and will concede a small price increase so that no one feels completely cheated.

While ministers of the Arab members of Opec will be keeping a close eye on President Sadat's peace initiative and the activities of his opponents, led by Libya, Opec sources do not think that activity in this direction will have any direct effect on pricing decisions. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, has said a number of times that his continuing stand for moderation in prices must be rewarded with progress towards peace in the Middle East. It has always been assumed that this message was aimed directly at the Americans and observers will be watching the minister's reaction to the Sadat initiative with interest.

Depression in world oil markets is only one of the prob-

lems that will be on the minds of the 13 ministers at the conference. Almost as serious is the decline in the value of the dollar which is affecting all the members. This is certain to be a priority on the Caracas agenda once the pricing question has been settled.

Pressure is already building up within the organization to drop the dollar as the medium for calculating oil prices in favour of a system based on special drawing rights (SDRs). While this idea has many attractions and has been discussed on previous occasions when the dollar has slipped, there is an ingrained reluctance to abandon the dollar, mainly because most members are convinced that it will bounce back again.

Sources within the organization expect the debate over SDR pricing to be a long one, but think that it will end with the dollar remaining as the currency for oil pricing, but with a proviso that should its value drop again steps will be taken to switch to SDRs.

Also, the problem of over-supply and the fact that Abu Dhabi has ordered a 16 per cent cut in its production ceiling next year have stimulated interest in the idea of "production programming". Making planned cuts in production throughout the Opec countries to eliminate the possibility of future oil glut has been on the agenda before, but the difficulties involved in getting the members to agree on where the cuts should fall seem almost insurmountable.

at peak

"Most of the members realise that controlling production is the only way of ensuring that over-supply does not endanger the pricing system. Production programming would need to be in operation only for two years at the most, but it might take this long to work out a system acceptable to all the members", one source close to the organization said.

By 1980 most Opec members expect the North Sea and Alaskan fields to be at their peak and from then on all increases in oil demand will have to be met from fields within the control of the organization. The result, they say, must be further rises in prices.

Business Diary in Europe: Products of British initiative

European consumer lawyers have just spent their first EEC-financed working meeting—dissecting the Commission's draft directives on product liability.

And it all started at the initiative of David Trench, who is legal officer of the Consumers' Association and Jimmy Trenchard, right-hand man on tackling the burden of consumer law raised by BBC radio listeners.

Trench secured approval, and finance, for the new European Consumer Law Group on the day that the EEC's environment and consumer affairs service was moving offices. The head of service could scarcely find a desk on which to sit while he considered the proposition, but the favourable decision he gave may pay large dividends in future through the European courts.

The lawyers' first meeting has resulted in seven proposed amendments to the draft directive which are announced today. Among the most ambitious suggestions are that consumers should have a right to prove a link between the defect in the product and the damage for which they are claiming compensation, but only the probability of its existence.

Another recommendation which goes beyond the British Law Commission's proposals on the subject is that there should be compulsory insurance for all product liability and compensation funds to make good any damage they may cause.

Shifting the burden of proof from consumers would be a major achievement if it came to pass, but in any case, down in the smaller print the consumer lawyers have already

satisfied themselves that the Commission did not intend—as it appeared they had—to exclude compensation for pain and suffering from their proposed directive. To the draft directive omitted it, they say, it was itself a defective product, but it will be put right before any damage is done.

The murder of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer and the terrorising of other industrialists by Reader-McInch's sympathisers seem to have reduced German worries about the risks of investing in Northern Ireland.

This is the conclusion reached by Don Conannon Northern Ireland Minister of State responsible for industry, and his officials on their three-day industrial promotion tour of Stuttgart, Düsseldorf and Cologne last week.

"We were amazed that no one had any questions at all about security", a Conannon aide said in Belfast yesterday. "All they wanted to know about were the usual things—productivity, industrial relations, transport costs, factory availability and so on."

In introducing Conannon to an audience of industrialists in Düsseldorf, the president of that city's Chamber of Commerce said: "I will not say anything about security in Northern Ireland. As you know, we have our own problems here."

There were no references to the unresolved abduction four years ago of the Grundig chief in Ulster, Thomas Niedermayer, or the more recent attack on his successor as honorary German consul in Northern Ireland, Jürgen Gradel, and the mission

returned to Belfast with promises of exploratory visits early in the new year.

Parades of the trades are a daily feature these days in front of the French Ministry of Finance in the Rue de Rivoli. Irate butchers, café owners, fishermen, bakers and poultry-keepers have taken it in turns to protest in the street at the measures imposed last month by Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to hold down food prices.

Now it could be the turn of the restaurateurs to join the marches.

The latest set of retail price figures—covering a period before the new Barre measures came into force—shows that food prices were already dropping back and that the new measures of the index are the services, including the restaurateurs. So last week Barre called in the two presidents of the



Raymond Barre: next irate restaurateurs?

organizations which represent the service industries to give them a talking to.

It is reported that they were full of righteous indignation. They pointed out that services in France had gone up by only 3.8 per cent over the year, less than the index as a whole.

Barre, who has the reputation of being the best economist in France, was not moved. He said that the index had gone up by 8.8 per cent, while the service figure alone had gone up by 9.4 per cent.

Hotels and restaurants, he could show, were the runaway French champions when it came to price increases. Their prices had gone up by 12.5 per cent since 1970 and this year alone they were charging an average of 10 per cent more already.

It is proving embarrassing for a growing number of Italian magistrates to see if they have broken the law—and orders the withdrawal of their passports to make sure that they remain on hand.

It has affected, among others, Nino Rovelli, chairman of the chemical group Società Italiana Resine, Mario Barone and Giovanni Guidi, joint managing directors of Banco Di Roma and Giuseppe Arcand, former director general of Italcasse, the central institute for the savings banks.

The magistrates can point out that several leading figures in the scandals of past years escaped arrest by going abroad, such as the financier Michele Sindona and Camillo Cucciani,

former chairman of Finmeccanica.

The public are liable to overlook the essential difference: the present cases are all investigations into the possibility of laying charges. It is not a question at this stage of issuing warrants and the decision may well be taken to proceed with any accusation.

Nevertheless, mud has been thrown and in certain instances it may stick unjustifiably. The banking system, in particular, has become the target of rather emotional, generalized criticism. Questions are now being asked about Italy's legal procedures. Are they giving the people under suspicion a fair deal? Should something be done to tighten the standards under which magistrates operate?

A group of top people from French aerospace were being shown round the Tupolev factory near Moscow where the Concord's super-sonic partner made. Their attention was attracted by a group of workers seated at a huge design table with looks of intense concentration on their faces. Was a new, faster and bigger version of the Concord's being developed, or perhaps a super-sonic bomber? Permission to see was abruptly refused by a Russian host and the party was quickly moved on. But with Gallic cunning, one of the Frenchmen slipped away and peered over the workers' shoulders to see what he was taking out a camera and snapping them. It was a game of dominoes. The workload at the Concord's factories is, it seems, as light as present as it is at the Concord factories in Toulouse and Bristol.

Norcros Limited Interim Report

for the half year ended 30th September 1977

"Overall there has been a healthy advance in both sales and profits..."

J.V. Sheffield
Chairman

Highlights	Group year ending 31 March 1978	Group year ending 31 March 1977	Full year 1977
	Half year £'000	Half year £'000	Full year £'000
Group Sales up 24.2% (Including share of Associate company sales)	97,187	78,221	173,978
United Kingdom sales up 14%	62,346	54,712	119,156
Exports up 13.3%	13,878	5,873	16,475
Overseas companies sales up 27.4%	13,142	10,312	20,849
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pre tax surplus up 22.5%	5,543	4,525	12,085
	Per share	Per share	Per share
Earnings per ordinary Shareholder up 7.5%	5.55p	5.16p	13.93p
Shareholders Ordinary dividend up 6.7%	1.6p	1.5p	3.96p
	£14,786	£11,615	£12,547
External Sales per employee up 27.3%			

Copies of the interim report and Group Products and Services Information available from The Company Secretary, Norcros Limited, Reading Bridge House, Reading, Berks. RG1 8PP.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

No lack of optimism at happy Norcros: even Hygena better

By Our Financial Staff

Once, the company and allied products division of Norcros was important enough to stop the whole group from growing. But no more; this year it looks as if this blue chip among industrial holding companies (an accolade shared with Thomas Tilling) will demonstrate that it can take kitchen furniture in its stride as a time when the Hygena division is starting to come right.

In the year to March 31 group pre-tax profits rose by just £1,000 to £12,050. In that year everything went ahead save losing Hygena.

In the six months to September 30 sales including those of an associate climbed by 24.2 per cent to £97.1m. United Kingdom sales were only 14 per cent better at £62.3m. But exports leapt 133 per cent to £13.6m and sales of companies overseas were up by 27.4 per cent to £13.1m.

So everything went ahead save losing Hygena (sic) which indeed slipped in operating losses of £1.74m against £1.42m. Up jumped the operating profits of construction from £289,000 to £1,63m; and printing and packaging moved from £1.1m to £1.95m. Overseas climbed from £1.19m to £1.88m. Engineering slipped a bit, and the consumer division did even worse. So total pre-tax profits advanced 22.5 per cent to £5.5m.

Mr John Sheffield, chairman, reports a full in heavy engineering, which should be temporary. Exports and earnings overseas continue to go ahead well. He adds: "The Hygena results for the second half year should show an improving trend." Despite heavy capital spending Norcros still has plenty of cash. However, the interim dividend is a mere 0.1p up to 1.5p even though earnings cover it 3.47 times.

Arlington Motors

Passenger and Commercial Vehicle specialists.

Interim Report for the 26 weeks ended 28th September, 1977

	26 weeks ended 28th Sept. 1977 (unaudited)	26 weeks ended 28th Sept. 1976 (unaudited)	Year ended 31st March 1977 (audited)
Turnover	20,327	14,787	31,224
Group Trading Profit	1,017	809	1,285
Interest Charges	348	230	634
Profit before Taxation	671	579	651
Taxation (based on Corporation Tax at 52% all deferred)	349	197	192
Profit after Taxation	322	382	459
Extraordinary items	(61)	-	-
Minority interests	14	7	26
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	389	375	433
Dividends on ordinary shares (interim of 2.5p per share payable 17th February, 1978)	82	46	46
Final of 5.17p per share	-	-	170
Retained in the Group	307	329	217
Earnings per share	9.4p	5.3p	13.2p

Trading Experience

We have regularly beaten Trading Profits in previous years but never before have we shown a half year Profit before Taxation greater than the profit of the previous year. This improvement results from a general increase in Sales and Profit throughout the Group and to achieve it in a period of sluggish Truck Sales and restricted Motor Car Supplies reflects great credit upon the Company and its staff. The extraordinary items represent the surplus on the sale of the assets of the coachbuilding business carried on at Bedwas, South Wales, and the sale of the leasehold premises at Penarth Road, Cardiff. While demand for commercial vehicles is not seasonal, sales of cars, coaches and car hire benefits the first half of the year more than the second. The Group's order book remains strong although trading conditions are little changed.

Dividends

In the light of the interim results we intend to increase the Dividend for the current year. We also feel it desirable to reduce the disparity between the Interim and Final Dividend. We therefore announce that an Interim Dividend of 2.5p per share (last year 1.4p) will be paid on 17th February, 1978. The amount of the Final Dividend will be decided when the results for the full year are known.

9th December, 1977

N. C. N. Housdon, Chairman

Arlington Motor Holdings Ltd., Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex.

Need to give the Third World a chance to earn its living

A chap called Fitzgerald who used to do the commentary for cinema travelogues years before television would sign off with something like, "And now we leave the wonderful land of Jay-pang behind us and turn our faces to the West".

Turning faces to the West has become a preoccupation of the developed countries, particularly the copper producers, who are being driven to the wall by lack of demand for their product and sagging prices.

The dilemma is that they need to sell their product to the industrialized nations to gain the foreign exchange with which to buy machinery from the developed nations and there is a gap which seems unbridgeable between income and expenditure.

In its recent *World Commodity Outlook 1977-78*, the Economist Intelligence Unit says that the whole emphasis of the North-South dialogue, seeking the will of the wisp of "just and remunerative" prices for commodities, seems more than ever to be misplaced.

Although there may be temporary shortages of raw materials, with some relatively scarce than others, the long picture shows demand for metals growing rather more slowly than in the past, says the EIU.

The only way that the industrialized countries can pay administered prices for their metals that are just and remunerative (i.e. higher than the market would dictate) is by participating in a system of production controls which in practice would be intolerable where it was not ineffective.

But, says the report, the industrialized countries cannot simply demonstrate the ineffectuality of using commodity prices as a means of development aid, and leave the matter there.

There has to be a transfer of resources to the Third World for compelling geopolitical reasons, if those of human solidarity are considered insufficient. One means of making the transfer

may become apparent, says the report; if another look is taken at why the terms of trade of the primary producers tend to worsen.

Essentially, they are selling in a market where prices are responsive to changes in supply and demand, and buying manufactures in a market where prices are not so responsive.

Whichever way is imperfect, to successfully develop countries which can supply the market competitively. But it must be attempted, for in one way or another, and for the common good, the Third World has to be given the chance to earn its living.

So far as the copper producers are concerned, there is a good deal of speculation about the likely effectiveness of the decision by Zambia, Zaire and Peru to restrict production.

Just as Bolivia has always been a rebel in the International Tin Council, Chile has always blocked concerned action by the copper producers.

Mr Robert G. Green, a partner in the New York trading firm of London brokers Rudolf Wolff, has pointed out that Chile has said that it can produce copper at \$2.50 a lb, leaving a profit at the current \$5.50 cents per lb world price. The Chileans also argue that increased demand and higher prices can be expected and therefore output should not be curtailed.

Zambia, Zaire and Peru have not said when, or by how much, they will reduce production of copper. Even though they consider that curbing production at the expense of short-term revenue is the only effective way to force prices up, they may find it difficult to stay out of the market for any length of time.

Wallace Jackson, *Commodities Editor*, says that the long-run policy being an analogous if perhaps extreme case) or they must restrain production which involves keeping out newcomers.

But is not keeping out newcomers precisely the means by which the benefits of improved industrial productivity are reserved to the producers rather than the consumers in developed economies?

It is true that international trade in manufactured goods has been greatly liberalized, and that taken preferences for the manufactured goods of developing countries exists.

But what if those countries produce real challenges to the home market of the developed countries, the protectionist pressure is there soon enough, and we have not seen the half of it yet.

Commodities

attempt which is doomed to failure in the long run (the ECU's agricultural policy being an analogous if perhaps extreme case) or they must restrain production which involves keeping out newcomers.

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But what if those countries produce real challenges to the home market of the developed countries, the protectionist pressure is there soon enough, and we have not seen the half of it yet.

Production slashed at Hamersley

Mounting stockpiles and the recession in the international steel industry have led Hamersley Iron to announce production cuts back next year in its iron ore operations in Western Australia.

Hamersley in which the UK mining house Rio Tinto-Zinc has an effective 33 per cent stake, said that sales were expected to fall next year from this year's level. In the first nine months of this year the amount of ore shipped dropped to 25.3m tonnes from 25.1m tonnes in the same period in 1976 despite the amount of saleable ore produced rising to 27.4m from 24.7m tonnes.

The Hamersley statement said that stockpiles had increased substantially this year and it would not be possible to continue with excess stockpiling next year.

However, work is to continue on an expansion project.

BAIN DAWES

This international insurance broker has bought old established family firm of insurance brokers in Leicester, J. H. Shaw & Co and associate. Cash price, less than one quarter per cent of net assets of Dawes' parent, Inchcape Group.

Issues remain unsettled due to the turmoil in currency

Conversations with Eurobond underwriters and dealers indicate that investors are not very confident about making long-term commitments in any currency at the moment, and so they are re-examining the proceeds from their portfolios in short-term instruments, writes AP-Dow Jones.

The three Eurosterling issues offered last week comprised a £10m, 10-year issue of Fisons International Finance NV at 10.25 per cent, a £20m, 12-year issue of Courtauld International Finance NV at 9.875 per cent and a £10m, 10-year issue of the European Investment Bank at 9.75 per cent.

In the after-market, the Fisons issue fell as low as 97 before recovering to 97.5. The Courtauld issue dropped to 94 before recovering to 95.5. The EIB issue declined to 96.25 before moving back up to 97 to yield 10.15 per cent.

A dealer said the recovery in the issues resulted from a certain amount of short-covering but that there was also some genuine investment demand at low prices. He said that in any case, it seems doubtful that the fledgling Eurosterling market will be sustained by supply pressures from new issues anytime soon.

In the dollar sector, a floating-rate note (FRN) offering made in London by Credit Agricole appeared to be very sticky. Priced at par, the \$50m, seven-year notes bear semi-annual interest at the higher of either 6.5 per cent or 1.25 points above the London interbank Eurodollar offered rates.

Indeed, some analysts are suggesting that now is a good time to take profits on Deutsche mark bonds since prices could fall sharply if the rate is ever a one-way movement out of that sector.

At a recent conference, Herr Fritz von der Wolk, investment manager of Roreto Fixed Income Securities, was quoted as saying that the Deutsche mark would probably weaken next year. He said that Germany's current action surplus for made in goods and services exports other countries would probably turn into a deficit next year. He commented that Germany's import bill would be boosted by purchases of nuclear-power equipment while exports would probably taper off due to a

recession in the industrialized nations. He said that the Deutsche mark would probably weaken next year. He said that Germany's current action surplus for made in goods and services exports other countries would probably turn into a deficit next year. He commented that Germany's import bill would be boosted by purchases of nuclear-power equipment while exports would probably taper off due to a

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White Child fights on to make its point

International Combustion (Holdings) has just shown that one can occasionally squeeze a little more from a predator in a bid battle even when it has won.

And Shipping Industrial Holdings managed the feat in 1973. So on soldiers White Child & Boney where Arthur Guinness has two thirds, after a successful bid last Spring.

Mr Richard Boney, chairman, then argued that White Child competes with Guinness directly in several lines that the minority should hold out for more than Guinness's 65p a share.

As if to support him, White Child reports pre-tax profits of £1.52m against £1m, and the £1.4m forecast last March, for the year to October 2. The dividend is 50 per cent up to 4.4p per (6.7p gross) as indicated at the time of the bid. But the shares were still only 65p at the end of last week.

Trust merger blocked by Inland Revenue

Carlisle Investment Trust and Tyneside Investment Trust have duly wed. Proposals to amalgamate were approved at meetings at the end of last week. However, the Inland Revenue indicates that in certain circumstances the transfer of assets under the scheme might be treated as a distribution for purposes of ACT. The tax liability could be substantial.

The trusts do not necessarily go along with this, but the amalgamation stays in suspense until the Revenue is sure that no liability arises.

Costs hit Deere

Deere and Co of Illinois, manufacturers of mobile power machinery says that its 1977 earnings were affected by foreign currency fluctuations, fourth-quarter production delays, start-up costs on its new line of farm tractors and higher labour and material costs.

Deere said that foreign exchange losses for the year were \$13.6m, compared with \$1.4m for 1976. It said that foreign exchange losses for the 1977 quarter were \$5.75m compared with \$1.4m in the 1976 quarter.

Wallace Jackson, *Commodities Editor*, says that the long-run policy being an analogous if perhaps extreme case) or they must restrain production which involves keeping out newcomers.

But is not keeping out newcomers precisely the means by which the benefits of improved industrial productivity are reserved to the producers rather than the consumers in developed economies?

It is true that international trade in manufactured goods has been greatly liberalized, and that taken preferences for the manufactured goods of developing countries exists.

But what if those countries produce real challenges to the home market of the developed countries, the protectionist pressure is there soon enough, and we have not seen the half of it yet.

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More questions over JCI's Namibia position

Oujhase, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment's copper mine in Namibia, looks like being the latest casualty of depressed base metal prices.

Rumours abound of its imminent closure and significantly many of them are coming out of Namibia itself—often it is the localized rumours that prove to be the most accurate.

There are several rumours to the effect that JCI is going to disengage itself, either by closing the mine or selling it. Selling the property and thus passing the buck to someone else hardly seems a likely prospect since it has hardly a saleable property.

However, one of the more intriguing variations of the rumour is that JCI is negotiating to hand the mine over to De Beers. Admittedly, De Beers is picking up the mine seems more of an unlikely prospect than JCI being able to find a buyer in the first place.

However, the cynics suggest that this would be a wonderful opportunity for De Beers to spread around a lot of goodwill while Oujhase might be something of a burden for JCI, it would hardly be a drain on De Beers, which is likely to have well in excess of £600m in cash in its balance sheet for this year, although of course it will need to keep a good part of that in reserve to augment the diamond stockpile when there is a downturn in diamond sales.

Keeping Oujhase alive and thus keeping employment open would also be a neat bargaining point should there ever be a problem posed over Consolidated Diamond Mines, either as to ownership or the rate of taxation—it should be remembered that CDM has been estimated as producing 25 per cent of De Beers profits, since that is where the high volume of good gem stones come from. It would also be useful for Rossing which receives its pyrite from Oujhase.

While the rumour has a deal of inventiveness, or truth as the

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LA CREME DE LA CREME

SECRETARIAL

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£3,500 PUBLISHING W.C.1

Director of important publishing group needs a high-achieving, energetic young secretary to assist him in all aspects of his work.

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Join this well-known French chain as an attractive position which will give you an enviable income and a bright future.

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Senior Consultant in production and design. Con- sulting with world-wide clients. Excellent salary and benefits. No travel.

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Our newly appointed Director and General Manager requires an efficient Secretary, over 23, to assist him in the varied and interesting activities of our group of companies, in Jermyn St. or Piccadilly. Own comfortable office, friendly atmosphere, luncheon vouchers. Hours 9.30-5.30. Salary not less than £4,000 for the right person.

Apply: Box 0075K The Times

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Advertising Agency requires EXPERIENCED RECEPTIONIST

TO START JANUARY 1971

If you are an active, friendly, well spoken, confident and motivated young woman, with a knowledge of office work, you could be just what we are looking for. You must be able to type well and have a pleasant, friendly personality. You'd be working in beautiful modern offices, centrally located in Hyde Park and we'll pay you a good salary and have a great future for you. If you're interested, please write to: Telephone: See Page on interviews to arrange an interview.

EXTRA-SPECIAL

INTERVIEWER

FOR EXTRA-SPECIAL W.1 AGENCY

Specialists in office personnel for the Communications Industries (Advertising, P.R., T.V., Radio, Film, etc.). You will need to be a fast thinker, a hard worker, and the kind of person we're looking for and we'd like to meet you. Call 629 8401 and we'll tell you more.

If you have that extra-special something it takes in its part of our young, successful team you might be just the person we're looking for and we'd like to meet you. Call 629 8401 and we'll tell you more.

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TO £4,500

A challenging position in a prestigious company to develop, plan and coordinate efficient office filing systems. You will have a staff to supervise and be responsible for the efficient running of the filing department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the filing department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the filing department.

DRAKE CONSULTANTS PERSONNEL

ENQUIRY ADMINISTRATION

A self-contained position without a manager, supervising clerical staff with a view to press advertising. It will be your job to receive enquiries, contact the appropriate departments, follow up to ensure customer satisfaction and maintain a high standard of service. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the enquiry department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the enquiry department.

GOOD WITH PEOPLE?

£3,200

If you enjoy people contact and are looking for a friendly, well-organized, well-paid job, this is the company for you. As this company is in the process of expansion, you will be the vital link in all their client contact. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the client contact department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the client contact department.

ADMINISTRATOR

Great opportunity to show off your organizational talents. You'll be the London contact for a major international company. You'll be responsible for the efficient running of the London office. You'll be responsible for the efficient running of the London office.

ADMINISTRATOR (NON SECRETARIAL)

A senior level position taking care of the group's policies. You'll deal with maintenance, recruitment and training. You'll be responsible for the efficient running of the administrative department. You'll be responsible for the efficient running of the administrative department.

"AUSTRALIA ON THE PHONE"

— If you are a confident, active person with a knowledge of office work, you could be just what we are looking for. You must be able to type well and have a pleasant, friendly personality. You'd be working in beautiful modern offices, centrally located in Hyde Park and we'll pay you a good salary and have a great future for you. If you're interested, please write to: Telephone: See Page on interviews to arrange an interview.

SECRETARIAL

NOW WE ARE THREE! We now have three positions of friendly, well-organized, well-paid jobs. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the secretarial department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the secretarial department.

STRIKE INTO 1978

As a Director of Personnel, you will be responsible for the efficient running of the personnel department. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the personnel department.

SECRETARIAL

£3,200

ADMINISTRATOR

£3,200

ADMINISTRATOR

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ADMINISTRATOR

£3,200

SECRETARY

prepared to perform some confidential duties required for busy X-ray practice

HARLEY STREET

previous secretarial experience and shorthand not necessary. Fast accurate typing essential.

Position involves doing X-ray reports, telephone work, secretarial duties and ideal solution for the bored secretary.

Initial salary

£3,200 + LVS

Phone 980 3623 or

925 5811 between 11.30

11 am to 6 pm

WOMAN'S OWN

Can you make order out of chaos, deal with people with tact and patience and work on your own initiative? If the answer is yes, then you also have good shorthand and typing and are over 21 you may be just the Secretary I need.

Ring Iris Burton,

Features Editor,

Woman's Own Magazine,

351 7009.

Sec. to Financial Control- Film Co. £3,700

Audio Typist £2,750

Shortland Typist £2,750

Accounts Assistant £2,800

For these and other jobs contact

SHENL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

19 CONDUIT STREET, W.1.

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To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel: PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

ONLY 01-837 3311 APPOINTMENTS 01-278 9161 PROPERTY ESTATE 01-278 9331 PERSONAL TRADE 01-278 9351 MANCHESTER OFFICE 061-834 1234

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Advertisements are accepted on a non-refundable basis. Advertisers are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided. Advertisements are accepted on a space basis.

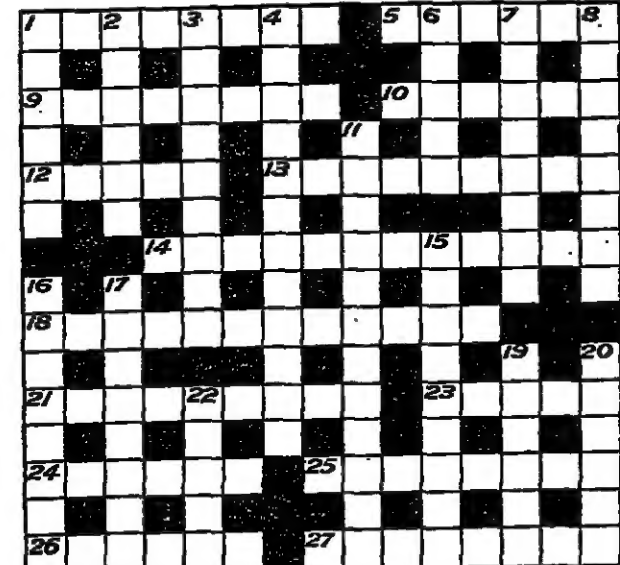
PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day, mistakes do occur.

NO MAN HAS GOD AT HIS FINGER TIPS. No man has God at his finger tips. No man has God at his finger tips.

BIRTHS. On 10th December, at St. George's Hospital, London, a son, Alexander, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith.

MARRIAGES. On 10th December, at St. George's Hospital, London, a son, Alexander, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,782



- ACROSS 1 Remake the arms and try to make most fashionable (8).
- 2 Struck back the firm plaster (6).
- 3 Unsubstantial air for me to compose (8).
- 4 Pirated the pet repeater? (6).
- 5 Corrupting agent of an influential nation (5).
- 6 Grain's surely on the mend, thus restoring confidence (12).
- 7 Disgusted people into it with some emotion (9).
- 8 Assuredly Goodman will give us a rise (5).
- 9 Trimmer's terrible extremities in close confinement (10).
- 10 Drinking vessel gets Australia's opener into trouble (18).
- 11 Like a wedding-mist on the morning after (5).
- 12 Cad needs wild rose (8).
- 13 Fruit diet for Curlylocks (12).
- 14 Not much copy (5).
- 15 Broil a pot-pourri in a sack amount of acid (8).
- 16 Said the cat could be more important (8).
- 17 Mathematical term for underweight (12).
- 18 Fresh horses add ginger to this event (5, 4).
- 19 Quietly retains bitter feelings about document (8).
- 20 Foot includes strange yarn about such a fowl (8).
- 21 Altered a drive (6).
- 22 Made amends but agreed to do without nothing (6).
- 23 She shows some fire? Never! (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,781. 1. Broomstick. 2. Broomstick. 3. Broomstick. 4. Broomstick. 5. Broomstick. 6. Broomstick. 7. Broomstick. 8. Broomstick. 9. Broomstick. 10. Broomstick. 11. Broomstick. 12. Broomstick. 13. Broomstick. 14. Broomstick. 15. Broomstick. 16. Broomstick. 17. Broomstick. 18. Broomstick. 19. Broomstick. 20. Broomstick. 21. Broomstick. 22. Broomstick. 23. Broomstick. 24. Broomstick. 25. Broomstick. 26. Broomstick. 27. Broomstick.

Christmas - a time for giving

To your family, to your friends. But what about the many old people who have no family and no friends? They'll be desperately lonely at this time of year. For just the price of a single present, you could help turn their Christmas into one of good cheer. ES provides 25 Christmas dinners for old people overseas. ES provides extra food for a small community for two months. Christmas is a family time. Please remember all the unfortunate people who have no family. A goodwill gift to them means so much more. Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 19, Freeport 37, London W1E 6UZ. *Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS. DIABETES will have to be conquered AND YOU CAN HELP TO SAY WHEN. A donation to our research fund will be well spent. Tel: The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 19, Freeport 37, London W1E 6UZ.

CANCER RESEARCH. I wish I could do something. How many times have you said or thought that? You can help by remembering Cancer Research's work depends on your donations. Your donation will help to fund research into the causes of cancer and the development of new treatments.

THINKING OF EMIGRATING TO SOUTH AFRICA? ATN Television would like to hear from anyone who is considering emigrating to South Africa. We are looking for people who are interested in a new life in a new country. Please contact us at 01-262 8000.

JUST COME BACK FROM SOUTH AFRICA? ATN Television would like to hear from anyone who has recently returned from South Africa. We are looking for people who can share their experiences and provide information to others who are considering emigrating. Please contact us at 01-262 8000.

FORGOTTEN THE CHRISTMAS? If you have forgotten the Christmas, don't worry. We can help you. We have a special service for people who have forgotten the Christmas. We will help you to remember the Christmas and make it a special time for you. Please contact us at 01-262 8000.

IN YOUR HOME TOO LARGE? If your home is too large for you, we can help you. We have a special service for people who have a home that is too large for them. We will help you to find a smaller home that is more suitable for your needs. Please contact us at 01-262 8000.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

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Various small advertisements on the right margin, including 'SKYCHALET PARTIES', 'REMARKABLE WINE OFFERS', 'SUGAR DADDY OFFERS', 'NEARLY NEW MINK', 'BARGAIN PERSIAN LAMBS', 'SANTA COMMA', 'CURTAINS FOR YOU', 'UPRIGHT PLAIN', 'SUPERIOR', 'UNUSABLE', 'IMMEDIATE', 'DOMESTIC', 'GREY FLANNEL', 'THE NEIGHBOURHOOD', 'MINK JACKET', 'BOUTIQUE', 'SPANISH', 'RELIABLE', 'SUNSHINE', 'SKI FLIGHTS', 'MAURITIUS', 'FLIGHTS', 'EUROPE', 'THAMES SAILING', 'DE LUXE SUCCESS', 'FLY HIGH', 'WHO CARES ABOUT THE EXPORT OF LIVE FOOD ANIMALS?', 'Belfast MP for', 'Rights post', 'The Murder of Journalist', 'political', 'The Murder of Journalist', 'political', 'The Murder of Journalist', 'political'.